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Local Government Service

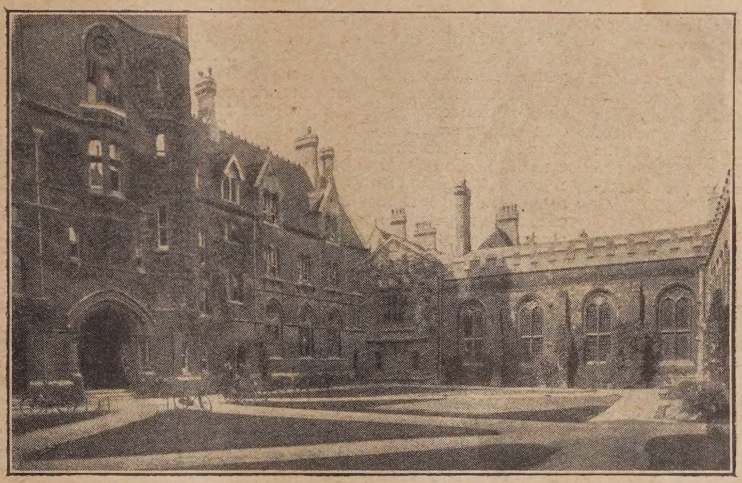
No. 8 AUGUST, 1935 Vol. XVI

"ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD"

TRIBUTES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT OPENING OF SUMMER SCHOOL AT OXFORD

VISITORS from Germany, the United States, and Palestine were among those who attended the annual Summer School of the Association at Balliol College, Oxford, which opened on the evening of Saturday, July 20, with a dinner in the College Hall, at which the guest of honour was Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., who deputised for the Minister of Health who was unable to attend as arranged.

Local government officers, both men and women, from all parts of the country, attended the school. The President, Mr. G. W. Coster, was in the chair, and others present included the Deputy Mayor of Oxford (Alderman Miss Lily Tawney), Mr. S. C. Orwin (Fellow of Balliol), Mr. J. Chaston (chairman of the Education Committee), Mr. W. W. Armitage (Vice-President) and the Chairmen of the Oxford City and County branches of N.A.L.G.O. (Dr. G. C. Williams and Mr. N. P. Castle).



OXFORD: THE FRONT QUADRANGLE AT BALLIOL COLLEGE

The Chairman, in welcoming Sir Henry Jackson, expressed regret that Sir Kingsley Wood had not been able to be present, and read a letter from the Minister in which he wrote: "Please express my cordial good wishes for the success of the Summer School and for the continuance of all the good work that is done by N.A.L.G.O."

Most of them, said Mr. Coster, would have realised the enormous amount of work Sir Henry had done to educate public opinion as to the value of the local government officer. He appreciated that with the co-operation of the Government, civil service, teachers and allied bodies, they were endeavouring to bring home to the public that they were not only getting good value for their rates, but that they were getting better value under the present system of local government than they would if each one of the social services were left to unrestricted private enterprise. Mr. Coster referred to the fact that this year local government was celebrating its centenary, and proudly claimed that the local government service of this country was the admiration and envy of the world.

Sir Henry Jackson, in reply, spoke of the value of a summer school at Oxford or Cambridge, and wished this year's school every success. The education of the local government officer, he said, had a logical place in local government administration. The wisdom imparted into local government by the elected representatives, both national and local, must be allied to the efforts of a thoroughly efficient, thoroughly zealous and thoroughly impartial band of officers if the desired results were to be achieved. A high standard of technical knowledge was necessary in the staff of local authorities in order that a clearer interpretation of the public's desires might be secured, and local authorities did much towards securing that standard when they recognised the educational activities undertaken by their officers.

The summer school enabled the local government officer to appreciate the sphere of his activities. It enabled him to see how his particular day-to-day work dovetailed into the work of the department; how the work of the department was part of the work of the authority as a whole, and how the efforts of local authorities formed a great scheme of local government controlling the social services of this country. The local government service was one of the most stabilising influences in a world which had seen many political disturbances in recent years. It was a great machine for the uplift of the people and the betterment of social welfare. Perhaps the time had come when the universities, both the older and the younger, might consider some modification of their curricula to meet the needs of the present day.

He thought the time had come when every university should include in its curriculum a study of public administration. Unfortunately they were only just beginning to realise that civics are of equal importance to many other school and university subjects. Their summer school movement should be the nursery for the university courses in public administration; it should arouse interest in the scientific study of administration and should encourage students to proceed to a university course in that subject.

He had always been interested in the work of N.A.L.G.O., with its membership of over 80,000 and all its multifarious activities. One heard of "bread and butter" policies, of "service conditions" of various schemes for the benefit of members, but whatever materialistic point of view any member of N.A.L.G.O. took, he must, if he was far-sighted, appreciate that the educational work of the Association was fundamental and was essential to the welfare of local government in the future. The value of their educational work could not be over estimated. Their local government service—not only the admiration but also the envy of the whole world—was a great machine which had been developed and welded over a century by their predecessors, the pioneers in that great development.

Mr. Chaston, in thanking Sir Henry, said that one of the results the Association was trying to achieve by its summer schools was to improve the quality of the local government officers, and by that to improve local government itself.

The visitors were welcomed to Oxford by the Deputy-Mayor and to Balliol by Mr. Orwin. Alderman Miss Tawney remarked that after seventeen years' experience of local government work she was more impressed every year by how much they had to depend on their officials. It was impossible for any man or woman concerned with the work to know "all the ins and outs of the business," and they had to trust their officials. It was when, very rarely, something went wrong, and they found that their trust had been misplaced, that they realised how great was the responsibility placed in their officials. One and all of those attending the school, "from the highest to the lowest," had their part to play in carrying on the work of the town or city with which they were connected.

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25 Sanitary Inspectors by Roger East (*The Crime Club*), 7s. 6d.

Do not be misled by the title of this detective novel into thinking that it has anything to do with Local Government. Its setting is the remote and delectable island of San Rocco, a tiny West Indian Republic which a cosmopolitan financier plans to make into a playground for millionaires; but strange happenings cross his plans—murder, fire and sabotage. No police force is handy and so a force of twenty-five sanitary inspectors is recruited to investigate the mystery. As one who has been a worshipper for many years at the shrine of Poirot, Lord Peter Wimsey, Colonel Anthony Gethryn, Inspector Frost *et hoc genus omne*, I can recommend this book as a detective novel of the first rank.—C. K. W.

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENTS

A MEETING of Education Correspondents was held at the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on Tuesday, June 11, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Chaston, Chairman of the Education Committee, when about ninety members were present.

Mr. Chaston opened the meeting and suggested that members should participate in a free discussion of the educational activities of the Association. The meeting then proceeded to discuss the establishment of Area Education Committees. Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, the Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee gave a summary of the work of the Liverpool Area Education Committee and reported on the week-end school held at Culcheth Hall near Warrington under the auspices of a joint committee of representatives of the Liverpool Area Education Committee and the Manchester Area Education Committee.

Miss I. Stansfield, who has been elected a member of the National Executive Council then gave some account of the work of the Manchester Area Education Committee. Both Miss Stansfield and Mr. Roberts urged the importance of the Area Education Committee in the organisation of the educational work of the Association and particularly pointed out the good work which had been done by these two Area Education Committees in the North-Western District.

Area Education Committees

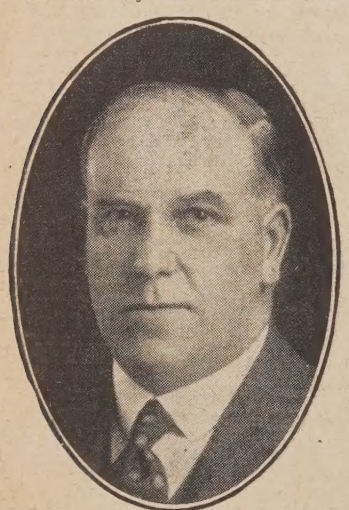
After some discussion it was agreed on the motion of Mr. Woodcock, West Riding, seconded by Mr. F. J. Willett, National Executive Council, that a communication should be forwarded to all branches urging the establishment of Area Education Committees. The meeting then gave consideration to the Association's Scholarships scheme, when suggestions for consideration by the Education Committee with regard to the operation of the Rules and the extension of the scheme were made. The chairman agreed that the points raised should be considered by the Education Committee at its next meeting.

Suggestions for the amendment of the Loans Scheme were also made and these suggestions are to receive consideration by the Education Committee in due course.

It was reported that there was a possibility that the University of Leeds would establish a Diploma in Public Administration during the forthcoming session and Education Correspondents were urged to see that support should be given to the Diploma course when established.

Other matters affecting the Association's educational work were discussed and enthusiasm was evidenced by the keen interest taken in the discussion by Education Correspondents at the meeting.

A Liverpool representative intimated that the Liverpool University had been pleased to suggest conferring an Honorary M.A. Degree on Mr. Hill, the General Secretary. The announcement was received with applause and the hearty congratulations of the meeting were accorded to Mr. Hill who suitably replied. The meeting gave great encouragement to the members of the Education Committee and such a fine spirit amongst our Education Correspondents will enable the Committee to pursue its educational policy with greater vigour with a view of uplifting the prestige and status of the local government service.



Mr. JOHN CHASTON, F.C.I.S., F.S.S., Chairman of the Education Committee of N.A.L.G.O.

AMERICAN MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK

The Municipal Year Book, 1935. The International City Managers' Association, 850 East 58th Street, Chicago, U.S.A. Price 4$.

This comprehensive Year Book for American cities is the corresponding publication to our own indispensable Municipal Year Book. It contains much important information about each of the 960 cities with population exceeding 10,000 in the United States, such as population, area, form of government, number and terms of councilmen, etc. A new section on municipal personnel gives the number of employees in each city, salary and wage expenditures, and salary cuts and restorations since 1930. Considerable space is devoted to the organisation and activities of national associations of public officials. There is also detailed information regarding the city-manager profession and a directory of city managers and council-manager cities.

The remarkable transformation which has taken place during the last twenty-five years in the field of research in problems in municipal, state and federal organisations is illustrated by two other sections, "Selected Books and Pamphlets for Municipal Officials" and "Services of National Organisations and Federal Agencies." Various writers who are experts on their particular subject, contribute excellent summaries on such subjects as, housing, public health, police administration, public works, public purchasing, municipal utilities, taxation and assessment, financial planning and municipal budgeting.

The Year Book affords an excellent opportunity of comparing the recent changes and developments in local government administration in this country with the developments which have taken place in the United States. In a general summary, Dr. Lewis Brownlow, the Director of the Public Administration Clearing House, Chicago, who is well known to many municipal officials in this country, states "A greater obligation than ever is made upon those who have or can find the facts upon which just and wise decisions ought to be based. . . . *The Municipal Year Book* appears in the hope and belief that it will be able in some measure to contribute toward the factual armament of those who will lead in the readjustment of municipal life to the changing needs of the times."—C. K. W.

A report discloses that the civil staffs of Government departments on April 1, 1935 totalled 327,417 (245,635 men and 81,782 women), an increase of 15,543 over the figure at April 1, 1934. The establishment of the Unemployment Assistance Board involved the employment of 6,514 persons, while increases are also noted at the Post Office and Ministry of Labour.

The Benevolent and Orphan Fund challenge shield which is given for competition within the area of the North-Eastern District Committee has been won by the North-West Durham Branch with a contribution of 12s. 10½d. per head of membership.

Balliol College: The Old House

LIVERPOOL HONOURS MR. HILL

A congregation of the University of Liverpool was held in St. George's Hall, Liverpool on July 6th, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. H. J. W. Hetherington, presiding in the absence of the Chancellor, the Earl of Derby. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, the Mayor of St. Helens, the Mayor of Bootle and the Town Clerk of St. Helens were among those present. At this congregation, Mr. L. Hill, the General Secretary, received the degree of Master of Arts, *honoris causa*. Dr. Hetherington opened the proceedings by reviewing the work of the University during the past year followed by the conferment of honorary degrees on five distinguished persons, including Sir Eric Drummond, who is so well known as the first Secretary-General of the League of Nations, and Mr. L. H. Keay, Director of Housing, Liverpool.

The Public Orator said that Mr. Hill "is a distinguished member of our Local Government Service, and is well known at home and abroad as an authority on the organisation and methods of public administration. He was the first, and for more than twenty-five years has remained General Secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officers, a body which contains many thousands of members. The organisation into one mass of so much executive authority and spending power must compel the admiration, even while it excites the apprehensions of every ratepayer. Loudly though we may complain that their ambitions outrun our resources, we know that we depend on their industry, their integrity, and their impartiality for much of the safety, the certainty, the ease, and the amenity of our lives, and our affection, though sometimes dissembled, is profound. Our domestic reproaches may be bitter, but we are always ready to boast of them abroad. We honour the representative of those of whom we are unaffectedly proud."

When the degree had been conferred the Liverpool University students, in accordance with their tradition, greeted Mr. Hill with one of their musical gags. To the tune of "Bingo was his name" they sang the following words and what their voices lost in harmony they gained in power:

What's been done by L. C. Hill
For over twenty years—ask
N.A.L.G.O.
N.A.L.G.O.
N.A.L.G.O.
And give him his degree!

NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT LIVERPOOL

THE annual general meeting of the Nalgo Approved Society was held on July 5, 1935, at Church House, Liverpool, Mr. S. Lord, the president, in the chair.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. E. Lloyd, Mr. Coppock presented the Ministry of Health Auditors' financial statement for the year 1933, which was formally moved, seconded, and adopted.

Membership Exceeds 20,000

Mr. Coppock, the chairman of the Committee of Management, submitted the annual report of that committee. He congratulated the society on the fact that the membership now exceeds 20,000, and he hoped that the society would continue to maintain its steady growth.

With regard to Rule K, it was pointed out that although at the annual general meeting, 1934, it was reported that twenty-six members were to be expelled from the society owing to the fact that they were eligible, but had failed to maintain their membership with the N.A.L.G.O. the chairman was pleased to report that twelve had re-established their membership and that consequently only fourteen members were actually expelled.

Additional Benefit Scheme

Mr. Coppock reported on the success of the Additional Benefit Scheme adopted at the previous annual general meeting and which came into operation as the result of the fourth quinquennial valuation on January 1, 1935, and he also commented on the success of Nalgo House, 148 members of the approved society, entitled to free residence, having stayed in the home during 1934 for a total period of 348 weeks. Questions were invited on the report, which was afterwards approved and adopted.

Mr. Lord announced with regret the retirement from the committee of Mr. G. T. S. Walters, who has been compelled to retire from the service on account of ill-health. Mr. Walters, who has been vice-president of the society since the amalgamation of Nalgo with the National Poor Law Officers' Approved Society, was also vice-president of the latter society for many years. He also served on the Convalescent Home Sub-Committee, on which committee he rendered valuable services. The meeting passed a resolution of appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Walters to this approved society and also the late N.P.L.O.A. Approved Society, and wished him many happy years of retirement.

Mr. Bowker, of Bolton, was elected vice-president in his stead.

On the motion of Mr. Cain (Liverpool), it was resolved that Messrs. T. E. Brierley, V. Cartlidge, S. Crawford, E. Gentle, J. A. Hubbard, J. M. Jenkins, B. H. Newcombe, W. F. Ottewill, J. W. Purchon, H. N. Smawfield, H. Summerfield, and F. Wise be elected members of the Committee of Management for the year 1935–36.

Venue of Annual Meeting

The resolution passed at the N.A.L.G.O. Conference, 1935, regarding the venue of the annual general meeting was placed before the meeting, and after discussion it was resolved to obtain the opinion of all members of the approved society, and that the method of obtaining this opinion be left to the discretion of the Committee of Management.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. S. Lord for presiding, and for his services as president of the society since 1912; to the Committee of Management for their services during the past year; to Mr. E. L. Riley, and the Liverpool Branch for the arrangements made for the meeting; and to the secretary and the staff.

SCOTTISH SUMMER SCHOOL

PROCEEDINGS AT THE ST. ANDREWS SESSIONS; THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PERMANENT OFFICIAL.

THE Scottish Summer School at St. Andrews University was opened by the LORD PROVOST OF GLASGOW (SIR ALEXANDER B. SWAN), who emphasised that there was nothing so important in the municipal life of the country as the permanent official. When a public body had a difficult situation to deal with it usually asked the permanent official to make a report in the matter, and Councillors were usually wise enough to accept that report, he said. The permanent official had got to understand the law and something more than the law. He had got to understand the personality of the members of the Council, and that was a more difficult task than understanding the law.

MR. JOHN CHASTON, Chairman of the Education Committee, spoke of the work of the Association, and suggested the appointment of Area Education Committees. MR. W. W. ARMITAGE, Vice-President of the Association, presented the prizes awarded by Mr. J. E. Highton, C.B., for the best essays received in the competition instituted by Mr. Highton. The prize-winners were Mr. Robert Deas, of Edinburgh, and Mr. R. A. Nixon, B.L., Glasgow.

On Monday, June 24, MR. W. H. MARWICK, M.A., of Edinburgh University, spoke on "The Social Background of Victorian Scotland," while his second lecture on Tuesday was on "The Development of Local Government in Victorian Scotland." After reviewing the earlier history of local government in Scotland, he remarked that with the growing demand for public services came the creation of a variety of bodies of an "ad hoc" character to undertake specified duties; thus grew up some confusion, both of areas and functions.

Later in the century arose a tendency to consolidation.

Local government during the century, he summed up, was regarded rather as either the maintenance of traditional customs and privileges, or as an unpleasant necessity for controlling specific social ills, than as a planned provision by collective effort for communal needs and desires.

A GROUP AT THE SCOTTISH SUMMER SCHOOL AT ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

The discussion which followed the lecture turned largely on the problem of an equitable basis for rating. The lecturer agreed that there were many objections to the present system, but expressed the view that a national income tax, partly devoted to local purposes, would be difficult to impose without taking from local authorities a large measure of their autonomy.

DR. HENRY HAMILTON, of Aberdeen University, dealing at Wednesday's session with the rise of Local Government in the burghs, remarked that the early burghs of Scotland had a form of self-government as was shown in the Laws of the Four Burghs of the twelfth century. Within the burgh community there was another organisation called the Guildry, its purpose being the maintenance and control of the town's monopoly of trade.

Having sketched the gradual limitation of the powers of Guildry and Incorporated Trades in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, he went on to show how urgent was the need for reform in town government. The Scots, having tasted a certain measure of political freedom under the great Reform Act of 1832, were anxious and impatient to re-model town government so in the following year three Acts were passed which effected fundamental changes in municipal government. Taken together, these Acts established popularly-elected Town Councils in all the important towns of Scotland. The new system was a success from the outset.

On Thursday DR. HAMILTON continued his historical survey of the state of local government in Scotland at the opening of the nineteenth century. He pointed out that between 1888 and 1894 there was a complete reorganisation of Scottish local government, the first step in which was the passing of the Local Government Act in 1889, which established County Councils. By the close of the century, a comprehensive system of local government had been established in Scotland. The first fundamental change in local government in the twentieth century came about through the Education Act of 1918, which abolished the old School Boards and substituted Education Authorities. Finally, there was the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1929, which for the first time brought all agencies of local government within the compass of one great movement of regulation and co-ordination.

A discussion took place on Friday on the subject, "Should the State Come First and Liberty Second?" MR. A. K. WHITE, M.A., Lecturer in Political Philosophy at Glasgow University, said that the issue between the State and individual citizens was predominantly an economic problem. The chief business of the State was to produce order. In these modern days, however, order involved more than legal order. It meant planning, but more than planning to relieve unemployment or to promote the interests of big business. The kind of planning we needed was the application of present economic conditions to human need.

DR. BOWIE, of Dundee, contended that the State existed for the sake of the individual. It was the State's duty to promote personal liberty. He admitted that there were times when the State had to step in and curtail the liberty of the

(*Continued on page 220, Col. 3*)

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NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING

TEN THOUSAND MEMBERSHIP : REMARKABLE FIGURES

THE third annual meeting of the Nalgo Building Society was held on Tuesday, June 11, at the Town Hall, Cheltenham. Mr. J. T. Baker, the chairman, presided, supported by members of the Committee of Management.

The chairman said one of the most satisfactory features of the Building Society was the wonderful confidence which had been placed in it by the members of N.A.L.G.O. Their organisation had only been running three and a half years and when they remembered membership of the society was confined to members of

MR. JOHN T. BAKER, Chairman of the Nalgo Building Society

N.A.L.G.O., it was a wonderful achievement to have nearly 10,000 members.

MR. W. E. LLOYD presented the financial statement which he said was remarkable reading. He did not think members of N.A.L.G.O. quite realised what an extraordinary influence the Building Society had been for N.A.L.G.O. generally. It had provided a lucrative investment and 2,513 mortgages had been approved, amounting to £1,517,000 in less than three years. That money had been lent to members of N.A.L.G.O. to enable them to purchase their own homes and he thought they would agree the society had surpassed anything they could have hoped or dreamt at the time of its formation. The profit last year was £9,900. Although the Society had been able to reduce the rate of interest on mortgages by ten shillings per cent., he could still predict that at the end of the year they would have a very satisfactory statement of accounts to present.

The accounts were adopted after a few questions had been put and answered.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the report of the Committee of Management, pointed out that two of the references from the last annual meeting had been dealt with satisfactorily, and he hoped the members would think the reasons for not dealing with the suggestion to reduce or abolish the legal fees in connection with mortgages transferred from other building societies were satisfactory. The committee could take no other course.

One member thought the explanations given were not reasonable, but the Chairman pointed out that a man who transferred his mortgage should not have preferential treatment over a member of N.A.L.G.O. who wished to take out a mortgage with the Society for the first time.

MR. CROW (Leeds) thought Nalgo Building Society did offer an inducement to transfer, because generally speaking, they offered lower rates of interest.

The CHAIRMAN : We do not give him special terms; everyone gets the same terms.

Replying to a question regarding legal fees, the CHAIRMAN said up to the moment the Committee of Management had not felt these could be reduced, but it was one of the things under consideration.

Several questions were raised on matters of financial adjustment, and the Chairman assured the meeting the Mortgage Sub-Committee and the Committee of Management always had these points carefully under review.

The HON. TREASURER also replied and emphasised that the man who put up his money was as much entitled to consideration as the man who borrowed was entitled to have it at the lowest possible rate.

Replying to a member who asked if it was not possible to make the rate of interest on mortgages 4¼ per cent. in the case of all advances for personal occupation and 4½ per cent. for all advancements on property not for personal occupation, the CHAIRMAN said the reason for the differentiation was that the risk of lending two-thirds of the amount was less than lending 90 or 100 per cent. If the rates were reduced they could not pay 4 per cent. and 3½ per cent. on shares and deposits as at present.

The report was adopted and on the motion of MR. CROW, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Committee of Management for their splendid work. The record of progress was sufficient evidence both of their ability and the members' confidence in them.

MR. C. H. WHINES (Middlesex) seconded and voiced appreciation of the expert services of the staff.

The CHAIRMAN suitably acknowledged.

Formal alteration of rules, consequent on the decision to discontinue the issue of share certificates, was agreed to.

SCOTTISH SUMMER SCHOOL

(*Continued from page* 219)

individual, but these were exceptional occasions.

The after-dinner talks by MR. WM. A. MACARTNEY, M.Inst.C.E., City Engineer, Edinburgh; MR. JOHN CAMPBELL, Chief Public Assistance Officer, Stirlingshire; and MR. JOHN A. FRASER, of the School Management Committee, Clydebank, were of a high standard.

On Friday evening MRS. CHASTON presented the prizes in the sports competitions as follows :

Golf.—Ladies : 1st, Miss G. Laing, Edinburgh; 2nd, Mrs. Chaston, Kettering. Gents. : 1st, Mr. J. Mitchell, Dundee; 2nd, Mr. C. C. Duncan, Dundee.

Tennis.—American Mixed Doubles : 1st, Miss G. Laing, Edinburgh, and Mr. J. F. Loftus, Glasgow; 2nd, Mr. J. M. Weir, Kilmarnock, and Mr. J. S. Brown, Dundee.

Putting.—Ladies : 1st, Mrs. Chaston, Kettering; 2nd, Miss E. Gibbon, Edinburgh. Gents. : 1st, Mr. A. Dalton, Glasgow; 2nd, Mr. W. Macdonald, Glasgow.

The second annual competition for the Shropshire N.A.L.G.O. Golf Challenge Cup (presented by Dr. T. R. Elliott) was held on the course of the Shrewsbury Golf Club recently. There were nineteen entries for the 18 holes medal round, which was won by Dr. J. G. Glynn Pigott with a score of 93—20=73. R. A. Kidd (6) 74 and H. W. Newman (12) 74 tied for second place.

Newport (Mon.) Branch Bowls Club have commenced the season with an increased number of members and a more ambitious fixture list. Twenty-nine matches have been arranged.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING

A MEETING of the National Executive Council was held at Oxford on July 20. The following were present:—

H. Allen	F. V. Merriman
A. G. M. Archibald	H. Morris
W. W. Armitage	C. J. Newman
J. T. Baker	T. Nolan
H. Begg	A. Denton Ogden
J. Chaston	E. L. Riley
G. W. Coster	C. A. W. Roberts
A. B. Day	J. W. Singleton
G. S. Fraser	Miss I. Stansfield
A. A. Garrard	J. W. Vince
J. E. Gee	J. H. Warren
V. Grainger	A. Webb
F. W. Greenhalgh	W. A. Whinnerah
D. L. Griffiths	E. G. Whitney
F. H. Harrod	J. W. Wilkinson
P. H. Harrold	W. Wilson
G. Llewellyn	Miss L. H. Wooldridge
W. E. Lloyd	L. Worden

Apologies for absence were received from the following: Messrs. W. A. N. Baker, A. G. Bolton, D. J. Parry, A. Pinches, E. H. Scarlett, E. J. Stead, G. A. Stone, F. J. Willett, Dr. A. Wotherspoon.

Mr. L. Hill, the general secretary, was the headquarters officer in attendance at the meeting.

Arising out of a meeting held at the close of the proceedings of the annual conference at Cheltenham, the council considered the question of the election of the Poor Law Transferred Officers Committee and decided that this committee should be re-appointed for the current year and that notice be given to the annual conference 1936 to disband it, as its work now properly fell within the terms of reference of the Law and Parliamentary and the Service Conditions and Organization Committees.

It was with gratification that the council learned that Dr. A. Wotherspoon, as president of the Association, had received and accepted an invitation to be present at the Thanksgiving Service held on May 6 at St. Paul's Cathedral in commemoration of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee.

The Council was informed that the Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education had approached the County Councils' Association, Association of Municipal Corporations, and the Association of Education Committees, suggesting that a useful purpose would be served if those Associations could see their way to discuss with representatives of that Association the principles governing the recruitment and conditions of service of Education Officers, with the object of getting a statement of policy as to qualifications, method of recruitment, conditions of service, and scale of salaries. The Association of Education Committees had appointed a strong sub-committee to meet representatives of the Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education, whilst the County Councils' Association Education Committee and the Association of Municipal Corporations had appointed a joint sub-committee with the Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education in order to consider this matter.

It had been suggested to the honorary secretary of the Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education that a useful purpose might be served if representatives of N.A.L.G.O. were invited to discuss the matter with that Association. The Executive Committee agreed to this suggestion and appointed seven representatives to consult with representatives of this Council.

Messrs. W. W. Armitage, J. Chaston, A. A. Garrard, D. L. Griffiths, C. J. Newman, C. A. W. Roberts, and J. W. Wilkinson were appointed to consult with the seven representatives of the Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education. The reports of the various committees were then considered and adopted.

The several committees reported that the following had been appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the year 1935/36:—

Publications and Recreations:
Chairman .. Mr. J. W. Singleton.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. A. Webb.

Education:
Chairman .. Mr. J. Chaston.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. C. A. W. Roberts.

Finance & General Purposes:
Chairman .. Mr. A. G. M. Archibald.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. T. Freeman.

Building Society Committee of Management:
Chairman .. Mr. J. T. Baker.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. T. Freeman.

Public Relations:
Chairman .. Dr. A. Wotherspoon.

Service Conditions & Organisation:
Chairman .. Mr. J. W. Wilkinson.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. H. Allen.

Law & Parliamentary:
Chairman .. Mr. P. H. Harrold.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. D. L. Griffiths.

Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee:
Chairman .. Mr. H. S. Newton.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. A. Webb.

Provident Society, Committee of Management:
Chairman .. Mr. W. H. Whinnerah.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. J. T. Baker.

Logomia Board of Management:
Chairman .. Mr. S. Lord.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. G. W. Coster.

Approved Society Committee of Management:
Chairman .. Mr. R. W. Coppock.
Vice-Chairman .. Mr. J. W. Pickup.

PUBLICATIONS AND RECREATIONS COMMITTEE

The Publications and Recreations Committee report, presented by Mr. J. W. Singleton, stated that the committee had received a report from its holiday centres sub-committee that many improvements had been made at both holiday centres including the concreting of the path at Cayton Bay holiday centre, painting of huts, redecoration of the dining and recreation rooms at Croyde Bay holiday centre and the re-curtaining of the bungalows there. This sub-committee also reported that it had decided to arrange for re-unions of visitors at Harrods Restaurant, London, on Saturday, February 29, 1936 and the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on March 21, 1936 and at the Old Assembly Rooms, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on February 8, 1936.

The special sub-committee appointed in connexion with the taking over of Cefn-y-Mynach Private Hotel, Rhos-on-Sea, reported the arrangements which had been made and stated that the hotel was fully booked until September 7, 1935.

The committee decided to renew the contract with Rolt and Sons Ltd., for the production of the N.A.L.G.O. holiday guide for a further period of three years as from January 1, 1936, the arrangements to be on the same basis as that in operation hitherto.

The committee considered the question of presenting a trophy or memento to past winners of the Alexander Walker golf shield but decided not to take any action in connexion with the suggestion.

Suggestions having been made from time to time and a definite request having recently been received from a branch for the Association to approve the design of a badge which can be purchased by a branch for its President, the committee considered what could be done to meet this wish and decided to approve in principle the provision of facilities to enable branches to purchase badges for their presidents by a firm with which the Association could make arrangements and to leave the question of the design of the badge to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and General Secretary.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee, whose report was presented by Mr. J. Chaston, appointed Messrs. J. Chaston, A. A. Garrard, C. A. W. Roberts and F. J. Willett as its representatives on the Poor Law Examinations Board for the year 1935/36.

Forty-five applications for exemption from the Association's preliminary examination were considered by the Chairman since the meeting of the committee held during March, 1935. Exemption was granted in forty-two cases and refused in three. The committee further reported that since the discontinuance of the preliminary examination from May, 1935, exemption from that examination would no longer be applicable, but it would, however, be necessary for candidates to submit an application for registration as eligible for the Intermediate examination in compliance with the regulations approved by the committee. Eight such applications were received and acceded to by the Chairman and of eight applications for exemption from subjects for the Intermediate examination the Chairman had granted six and refused two.

The committee was gratified to learn that since the meeting held during March, 1935, the Association had conducted two Entrance to the Service examinations, one at East Ham in connexion with the appointment of shorthand-typists and the other at Rhyl for an appointment in the Surveyor's Department.

Examination Figures

The committee was informed that the Association's examinations were held on May 23, 24 and 25, 1935 at twenty centres.

The following statistics show the number of candidates examined on this occasion compared with those at the examinations in January, 1935 and in 1934:—

Grade	May 1935	January 1935	Total 1935	May 1934	January 1934	Total 1934
Preliminary	121	82	203	88	67	155
Intermediate	70	31	101	62	45	107
Final ..	16	10	26	14	11	25
Total ..	207	123	330	164	123	287

The number of entries for the Final Examination is the highest ever recorded. The entry for the Preliminary Examination is the highest recorded under the revised syllabus. The number of entries for the Intermediate Examination is the highest on record with one exception (May, 1933).

The following is a summary of information relating to the ages of candidates:—

Grade	Age Range	Average Age
Preliminary	15-35	20
Intermediate ..	17-40	22
Final	18-39	25

The following table shows the results of the examinations held in May, 1935:—

Grade	Passed	Referred in certain subjects	Failed	Total	% of candidates who passed
Preliminary	58	—	63	121	48%
Intermediate	33	20	17	70	47%
Final	12	3	1	16	75%

Matriculation Certificates

It was also reported to the committee that a notice had recently appeared in the press to the effect that the Joint Matriculation Board of the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and Birmingham will discontinue the award of matriculation certificates. It has been stated that the University authorities on the one hand and the School authorities on the other were at one in their view that the separation of matriculation from the school certificate was sound educationally.

(*Continued on next page*)

TIME is an important factor in the examination room. If you are properly prepared for your examination you will find no difficulty in answering questions in the time allowed. Be properly prepared by the Nalgo Correspondence Institute.

TIME is also a matter of importance in your daily life. By carefully prepared courses the Nalgo Correspondence Institute has reduced the time required to prepare for an examination to a minimum.

The following is a short list of Institutions for whose examinations coaching is arranged:

National Association of Local Government Officers.
University of London (Diploma in Public Administration).
Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.
Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.
Various preliminary examinations (including matriculation).
Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures and Gas Meters).
Chartered Institute of Secretaries, Incorporated Secretaries' Association, and Corporation of Certified Secretaries.
Sanitary Inspectors Joint Examination Board (both for England and Wales and for Scotland).
Royal Sanitary Institute (Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, Food Hygiene (A.R.San.I.), and Sanitary Science).
Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur).
Poor Law Examinations Board (England and Wales).
(*a*) Relieving Officers.
(*b*) Institution Officers.
(*c*) Clerical Assistants.
Poor Law Examinations Board (Scotland).

Full particulars from the

NALGO CORRESPONDENCE INSTITUTE

24, Abingdon St. Westminster, S.W.1

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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From the University point of view, matriculation is an entrance examination taken at about sixteen years of age, whereas the candidate does not enter the University until one or two years later. It is, in their opinion, better to test general ability at a later date and the postponement would undoubtedly enable it to be made a test of judgment and maturity, rather than one of memory.

From the School point of view it is urged that matriculation requirements give a bias to the School Certificate Examination, rendering it unsuitable for candidates who do not intend to proceed to a university, and that many candidates who have gained a school certificate are better qualified from many points of view than if they had fulfilled matriculation requirements.

The Joint Matriculation Board have laid down the new university requirements as the possession of any school certificate, provided that a foreign language has been taken at the usual standard and either any Higher School Certificate or a pass at one and the same time in four subsidiary subjects of the Higher School Certificate chosen from any two of three groups. The new regulation cannot come into force until the University session beginning in the autumn of 1938.

The committee was informed that, as a result of correspondence with the University of Leeds, the Vice-Chancellor of the University had stated that he saw no difficulty in principle in accepting a suggestion that those who had taken Part I of the Sheffield University Diploma course should be exempted from the corresponding part of the course at Leeds University. The secretary of the Yorkshire District Committee circularised members in the district, with a view of ascertaining whether a diploma course at Leeds would receive support, and it was understood that sufficient support would be forthcoming to justify a diploma course being started at Leeds University next session. The committee expressed its deep appreciation at the interest which had been taken by the Yorkshire District Committee in this matter, and of the success which had attended its efforts.

The committee received a report that, at a meeting of education correspondents held at Cheltenham on Tuesday, June 11, 1935, at which approximately 95 members were present, a general discussion took place on the establishment of area education committees, and that, in accordance with the resolution passed at that meeting, it was proposed to circularise all branches, outlining a scheme of area education committees and their functions.

It was reported to the committee that in view of the fact that the Rt. Hon. Sir E. Hilton Young had been elevated to the peerage, arrangements had been made for the English summer school to be opened by the Rt. Hon. Sir H. Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, but that subsequently he had intimated that he would be unable to attend this function, and, consequently, Sir Henry Jackson, Bart., M.P., had been approached and had agreed to open the school.

Lending Library Scheme

The committee considered a report embodying amendment of the Lending Library schemes, and decided to discontinue the category of free books, to define the scope of the library by the following rules :—

(*a*) That the category of "free" books be discontinued.

(*b*) That the scope of the library be defined by the following rule :—

The Lending Library of the Association contains the books required in connection with the examinations of the—

1. National Association of Local Government Officers.
2. Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.
3. Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.
4. Chartered Institute of Secretaries.
5. Poor Law Examinations Board.
6. Diploma in Public Administration of a British University.
7. Board of Trade for Inspectors of Weights and Measures.
8. Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur).
9. The Joint Examination Board of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association and the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Except that short-life books (i.e., those for which an edition appears at frequent intervals) are *not* included in the library.

To interpret the expression "Diploma in Public Administration of a British University" as "Degree or Diploma of a British University, including the advanced study of Public Administration," to issue on long-term loan only those books published at over 6s., but to have all books available for short-term loans. In addition the following revised scale of charges will be operated in future :—

A. For long term loans (only applicable to books published at over 6s.)—

For one year	½rd of the published price
For six months	⅛th of the published price

B. For short term loans—

Books published at 6s. or under	3d. per week
Books published at over 6s. but under 21s.	6d. per week
Books published at 21s. or over	1s. per week

The committee received a report that up to June 30, 1935, 270 students had been enrolled as compared with 262 for the comparable 1934 period, and that the fees from January 1 to June 30, 1935, amounted to £1,511 11s. 2d., whilst the fees for the first six months of 1934 totalled £1,500 15s. 1d.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

The Law and Parliamentary Committee reported, through its chairman, Mr. P. H. Harrold, that it had given detailed consideration to twenty-two applications for legal assistance, and that appropriate action had been taken on behalf of the members concerned in all cases. On the question of compulsory superannuation, the committee reported that a joint letter, signed on behalf of the Association of Municipal Corporations, the County Councils Association, the Urban District Councils Association, the Rural District Councils Association, the Trades Union Congress General Council, and N.A.L.G.O., had been sent on April 4, 1935, to the Prime Minister, requesting the Government to give facilities for consideration by Parliament during the present session of a Bill to provide for, *inter alia*, the compulsory extension to all local authorities in the United Kingdom, of the principle of superannuation for the persons employed by them and the payment of transfer values to enable such persons to transfer from the service of one local authority to the service of any other local authority without loss of either superannuation rights or the benefit of past service for superannuation purposes.

The Rt. Hon. J. Ramsay Macdonald, who was Prime Minister at that time, replied on May 13 that his information was such that he could not take the view that a Bill like that outlined in the letter would not be controversial, as the proposal to apply the principle of compulsory superannuation to servants as well as officers raised issues of importance, and he understood also that a number of points required working out before legislation could be introduced. He added that the Government realised the importance of the consideration of the proposals set out in the letter, but there was a very great pressure of public business before Parliament, and he much regretted that it was quite impossible for him to give any undertaking on behalf of the Government that

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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facilities would be given for the passage of a Bill during the present Session.

On June 4, 1935, the Associations referred to above, with the exception of the Urban District Councils Association, sent a joint letter to the Secretary of the Ministry of Health, informing him of the letter of April 4, and of the reply dated May 13, and urging most strongly that the Government Departments concerned should, without any further delay, come to a decision on the proposal to apply the principle of compulsory superannuation to servants, and that the further working-out of such points as were referred to in the Prime Minister's letter should be at once commenced, and brought to a conclusion without delay. In that letter it was stated—"In our view, it would be disastrous to discontinue the work of the settlement of the Bill, especially after so large a measure of agreement had been reached, until near the commencement of next Session." The committee reported that so far the Ministry of Health had not replied to this letter.

The resolution passed at the Annual Conference, 1935, re-affirming the decision arrived at by the 1934 Conference, and urging His Majesty's Government to put into operation, without further delay, a measure of compulsory superannuation for the local government service, had been forwarded to the Minister of Health on June 18, 1935.

The committee had approved a report of a sub-committee, constituted at a meeting held on March 2, 1935, to consider a Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme in operation in the City of Birmingham, and which had been received from the West Midland District Committee and had decided that a full statement of this question should appear in the report to be presented to the Annual Conference 1936.

The committee was pleased to report that in the case Carnegie *v.* Roxburgh County Council under the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, Lord Carmont had in April, 1935, given his opinion and the case had been settled satisfactorily to all parties.

Housing Management Commissions

The committee reported that the Housing Bill and the Housing (Scotland) Bill provided for the establishment of Housing Management Commissions to which might be transferred all or any of the functions of the local authority under the enactments relating to housing with respect to the management, regulation and control, and the repair and maintenance, of working-class houses and other buildings or land provided in connexion with such houses. It appeared to the committee that the transfer of such functions might necessitate the transfer of officers of the local authorities who are employed in connexion with the discharge of such functions or the employment of an independent staff by the Commission, with possible redundancy in the case of some officers or servants of the local authority. The situation thus created appeared to be somewhat similar to that which arose in the case of the Bill for the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932. It was recalled that, in that case, as a result of action taken by the Association, provisions were inserted with regard to the transfer of officers and compensation.

The committee had arranged whilst the Housing Bill was being considered in committee for a number of amendments to be moved to protect the interests of the officers and servants who might be adversely affected. These amendments were accepted by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health and amendments on similar lines had also been incorporated in the Housing (Scotland) Bill. The committee on behalf of the National Executive Council had sent letters of thanks to Mr. Petherick, M.P., and to the other members of Parliament who rendered assistance in connexion with this matter.

Claims Against Officers

The committee considered the position which had arisen as the result of a request from the Treasury that corporations promoting Bills should include a provision to the effect that if the Corporation receives notice of any claim by a creditor of a deceased employee before the expiration of one month from the death of the employee they shall retain the whole amount due to the deceased employee in their hands, or a sufficient part thereof to satisfy the claim until the claim has been satisfied, disproved or withdrawn and that this provision had been inserted at the end of the clause which gives to local authorities a reasonable discretion as to the distribution of small amounts in their hands due to deceased employees without depriving other persons of their legal rights.

The committee had caused an objection to be sent on behalf of the Association to the Treasury against the insertion of a provision of this kind in future Bills. In support of the objection it was argued that it is inexpedient that a local authority should be required to retain any sum due to a deceased employee in respect of salary, wages or otherwise, merely on receiving notice of any claim by a creditor of the deceased employee. The authority, by reason of such a provision, would be placed under an obligation to retain a sufficient amount to satisfy the claim, whether or not it was in fact *bona fide* or capable of justification, and they would moreover, be placed in the position of having to satisfy themselves as to the validity of the claim, or retain such amount until the matter had been determined by the appropriate tribunal, or the claim had been withdrawn. Whether or not the claim could be substantiated would at least in some cases be a matter for judicial determination, and in any case it would not be a matter appropriate for investigation or determination by a local authority, who would not be in a position to do more than form a *prima facie* opinion on the matter.

The insertion of any such provisions involved a differentiation between employees of a local authority and employees of any other body of persons. It was submitted that any creditor of any employee of a local authority should, as in other cases, be left to pursue whatever legal remedy he might have, without any such obligation being placed upon the authority as would be involved in the paragraph objected to, and without involving the retention by the authority of monies in circumstances which might cause delay and inconvenience to the person or persons entitled in distribution to the residuary estate of a deceased employee.

A reply has been received from the Treasury stating that they had given careful consideration to the Association's objections, but they regretted that they were unable to agree to the omission of the provision referred to, as such a provision was considered to be necessary to compensate creditors for the loss of their rights against the legal personal representative of the deceased, whose discharge would have been necessary to protect the local authority if they had no statutory authority to pay without it.

Compensation Appeals

The committee reported that since the meeting held on March 2, 1935, decisions had been given on four compensation appeals which had been made, two under the Local Government Act, 1929, and two under a Court Review Order, 1934, and that as a result of the action taken by the Association, the annual compensation allowances awarded on appeal was £49 9s. 11d. more than the compensation granted by the compensating authorities. The committee further reported that since its meeting held on March 2, 1935, 130 cases had been dealt with at headquarters in which legal advice and assistance had been given.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, chairman, submitted the report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in which it was stated that Mr. C. A. W. Roberts and the General Secretary attended a meeting with representatives of the British Hospitals Association on April 10, 1935. The objects of the Association are :—

(1) To establish and maintain relations between representative hospital organisations and make possible a continuous exchange of experience between all nations and individuals interested in hospital activities.

(2) To convene and organise an International Congress once every two years, and a biennial post-graduate study course.

(3) To establish an International Bureau for the purpose of collecting international literature and information relating to hospital service.

(4) To appoint and maintain Permanent Study Committees, each of which undertakes an international study and a report to the Association's Congress on the many problems of hospital service and management.

(5) To publish a quarterly journal—"Nosokomeion"—a medium for the regular exchange of opinions and ideas between hospitals throughout the world.

The committee considered the suggestion made by the Portsmouth Branch that at future annual conferences all voting should be by a show of hands and not by voice, but the committee had decided to continue the present system of voting because in certain cases it was more appropriate that a motion should be carried by voice than by show of hands, and secondly it would be inadvisable to interfere with the discretion of the President who could be relied upon to call for a show of hands whenever there was any doubt as to the decision asked for by "Aye" and "No."

The committee had also considered a suggestion made by the Leicester Branch that in future the name of the voting member should be left off the voting envelope in connection with the election of the National Executive Council. The committee, however, decided that as the signature on the envelope is the only check that the person voting is a member of the Association and is entitled under the rules to vote in connection with this election, the present system be continued.

NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY

The Committee of Management reported that since the inception of the Society, 10,597 members had enrolled for paid-up and partly paid shares, that there were 1,183 depositors who were members of Nalgo and 966 who were not members of this Association. Advances totalling £259,052 had been authorized since the meeting of the committee held on March 1, 1935.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The report submitted by the Public Relations Committee showed that during 1935 twenty-nine articles and letters had been circulated to the press and that 1,071 cuttings had been received. The committee appointed Dr. A. Wotherspoon, its chairman, to represent the Council on the Council of the Association for Education and Citizenship for the year 1935-36. A full report was submitted by the committee on the action taken and proposed to be taken both nationally and locally to ensure an adequate celebration of the centenary year, and from this report it was evident that interest in this subject is developing in very many directions and that before the end of the year public consciousness of the value provided by the social services of the local authorities would be awakened to an extent hitherto unknown.

The committee recommended that a centenary essay competition be organised and should be open to the general public. The prizes suggested are 25 guineas for the winning

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READERS' NOTES

By JONAS PRAPS

HENRY DE MONFRIED, tired of the (to him) ordinary adventures of pearl-fishing and gun-running, turns his attention to smuggling. In "Hashish" (Methuen 10s. 6d.) he gives a graphic description of his experiences. The title indicates the dried hemp which has a narcotic and intoxicating effect on its addicts. Despite extensive coast-guard arrangements there is a considerable amount of illicit trading. De Monfried takes the risk and has some hair-breadth escapes. The book is, however, not all adventure—there is more detail of life in the East and character study than in the avarage book of this type.

Deep-Sea Wonders

Some time ago I drew attention to the wonderful work of Dr. Beebe of the New York Zoological Society and his oceanographic work: his record is continued in "Half Mile Down" (Lane 18s.). In his "bathysphere," a spherical observation chamber, he is lowered to the depth of a half-mile underwater and from there telephones his observations to the boat. It is a story of strange and beautiful plants and fishes: a siphonophore, a deep-sea creature so fragile and delicate it was always broken when netted: the parrot fish which after a meal graciously assumes an upright position whilst smaller fry clean its teeth and scales, and the avocet-eel with its transparent young almost invisible save for their irridescent eyes. Strong beams of light enable observations to be made and photographs taken. A description of the bathysphere is given in the book, and a journey in it must be more exciting than de Monfried's "hashish" smuggling. The book is full of interesting details of the wonders of the deep and is delightfully illustrated.

"The Exquisite Burden," by A. A. Thomson (Jenkins 7s. 6d.) is the story of a boy who "braced himself to the exquisite burden of life." The scene is chiefly laid in Harrogate (disguised as Nidvale) and the story tells of the emancipation of Philip Norham, brought up in the cellar of a select boarding-house kept by his aunt and under the shadow of a religion in which "all sins were of equal heinousness." though even at seven years of age Philip doubted the justice "of a code which judged sin under a kind of damnatory all-in policy." The rigours of school, home, church and relations were relieved by his boy-love for a "girl-fairy" and the hen-pecked uncle who sat in the back benches of the church being no true believer but a sort of "spiritual camp-follower." The boy wins his way to London and success by means of a scholarship and to happiness. There are excellent studies of Yorkshire characters and the book has many humorous thrusts at them.

London's River

Of course if you are satisfied to go up or down the river from Westminster Bridge in an ordinary pleasure-steamer you will gain a smattering of the history of its wharves, bridges and taverns delivered by a gentleman "not engaged by the Company" through the medium of a megaphone. But if you would search deeper and know more of the river-life read "The Romance of London's River," by James A. Jones (Hutchinson, 21s.). You read of the soul of the river, its watermen and tugmen, sailors from near and far, hectic nights in Limehouse Reach, its islands, wharves and bridges and of the smuggling which is not unknown on its waters. The book is daintily illustrated.

The charm of L. M. Nesbitt's "Desolate Marches" (Cape, 10s. 6d.) is the personal nature of the narrative. The book tells the story of the author's engineering survey in the Orinoco Llanos of Venezuela in 1927 on behalf of an American oil company and of his difficulties of transport through almost trackless forest. The chapter describing his finding of the track after being lost for ten hours in the forest is a graphic piece of writing. The details of his experiences with the members of his party, with villagers and the denizens of the forest are given in a convincing manner.

"Call Back Yesterday," by Geraint Goodwin (Cape, 6s.), is a volume of recollections in the form of a novel. There is no plot: a youth with literary ambition comes to London from Wales and later sets down his experiences in Fleet Street and his reminiscenses of Wales and Italy. As an example of style it is very well worth reading.

In like manner John Moore writes delightfully in "Country Men" (Dent, 7s. 6d.) of such men as Izaak Walton, Herrick, Cobbett, Borrow, and other lovers of country life. It is as much a book in praise of England as of biographical details.

LIBRARY SERVICE

We are now approaching the time for the renewal of the Library Service arranged with Messrs. Boots Booklovers' Library. It is quite evident from the increasing membership that this scheme is giving entire satisfaction. We wish to draw the attention of all members desirous of renewing their subscriptions for the ensuing year to the methods which will be employed in future.

The present subscription will expire on the 1st August, and we are anxious that the renewal of these subscriptions shall take place with the least possible inconvenience to members and to Messrs. Boots.

All members desirous of renewing their subscriptions should obtain a renewal application form. The forms, which may be obtained from headquarters or branch secretaries, should be filled in and accompanied by remittance handed to the Librarian of the local or most convenient branch of Messrs. Boots Booklovers' Library. The membership token at present in the member's possession should be presented with this application for renewal.

It is essential that application for renewal should be made on or before the 1st August in order to avoid delay in the issue of the new token. The new membership token will be available within six days of the date of renewing the subscription, and an opportunity should be made of collecting this token within this period from the branch at which payment was made.

Failing the renewal of this subscription any subscriber detaining the property of the Library beyond the period subscribed for will be charged for such detention at the ordinary subscription rates as quoted in the Prospectus for the number of days books are retained beyond expiry date. Whether subscribers renew or not, present tokens must be surrendered upon expiry.

To members who have not yet availed themselves of the special terms with Messrs. Boots we quote the same as follows:—

Class "A."—Entitling the token-holder to all works in circulation including the newly-published works, for a period of twelve months, 15/- per volume.

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Any further information required may be obtained from the Head Librarian, Messrs. Boots Booklovers' Library, who will be pleased to furnish further particulars where necessary.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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entry, 10 guineas for the second and 5 guineas for the third, and the committee referred to its chairman, the Honorary Solicitor for England, and the General Secretary the conditions of the competition, the appointment of a panel of adjudicators and the whole of the general arrangements in connection therewith.

SERVICE CONDITIONS AND ORGANISATION

In his capacity as chairman of the committee, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson submitted the report of the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee. In connection with the reference from the annual conference, 1935, regarding the application of the national minimum scale of salaries and standard conditions of service, the committee reported that it had decided as a preliminary step to circularise all the branches regarding the scales and conditions at present in operation so that it could obtain a complete picture of the terms under which local government officers are at present employed, and that after this information had been received, further consideration would be given to the matter. The committee had decided to delete the word "contiguous" from the heading to Scale 3 of the Association's minimum scales and conditions and to substitute the word "neighbouring" therefor. This was done on a suggestion made by one of the branches in the Metropolitan area and with the concurrence of the Metropolitan District Committee.

The committee had appointed a sub-committee to consider every aspect—local, provincial and national—of the question of Whitleyism and to act as a co-ordinating body for the representatives of the Association on the Standing Conference of Joint Councils. The North Eastern District Committee had reported that the proposed meeting of representatives of staff organisations to consider the question of the inauguration of a Whitley council for that area would probably be held on September 21, 1935 and the Scottish District Committee reported that the Ministry of Labour had now sent out to all local authorities an explanatory memorandum and an invitation to attend a conference with the object of establishing a Whitley Council for Scotland.

The committee received a report that the London and National Society for Women's Service has published a brochure on the subject of openings and training for women wherein had been included appropriate information in connexion with openings for women in the local government service.

The Rotherham branch had suggested that the National Executive Council might consider taking steps to secure for the local government service a five-day working week in honour of the centenary year, but the committee stated that this subject was one which might well be discussed at the annual conference, 1936, and accordingly recommended that an appropriate notice of motion in the name of the National Executive Council should appear in the agenda of that conference.

The committee reported that since its meeting held on March 2, 1935, ninety applications for retired membership had been acceded to.

N.A.L.G.O. PROVIDENT SOCIETY

The Nalgo Provident Society Committee of Management, whose report was submitted by the Chairman, Mr. W. H. Whinnerah, stated that in connexion with the reference from the annual general meeting, 1935, regarding the submission of medical evidence in the case of any illness of less than sixteen days' duration, it has decided that in the case of any such illness the declaration on and off forms would be sufficient provided that the medical certificate on the declaration off forms stated the duration of the illness and that the acceptance or otherwise of this evidence should be left to the secretary for determination.

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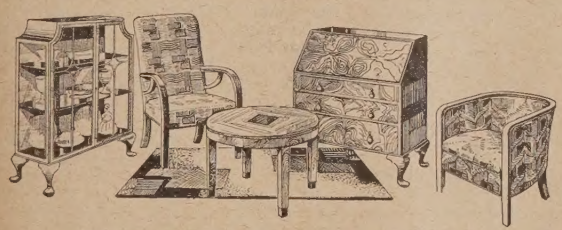

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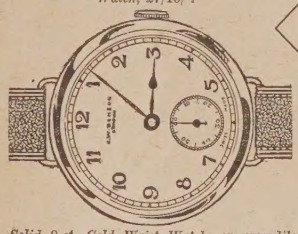

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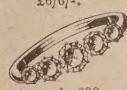

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

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24 ABINGDON STREET,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."
Telephone: Victoria 8592 (6 lines).
Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl, London.

HEADQUARTERS and BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers from headquarters :—

June 28, 1935.

Circular No. 46/*B.O.*/1935.

(To the honorary secretary of each district committee and branch.)

Setting out the amendment of the Liverpool branch to the notice of motion of the Hampshire C.O. Branch regarding the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, which was passed at the Annual Conference, 1935, and requesting observations thereon.

Circular No. 47/*Gen.*/1935.

(To each branch secretary.)

Concerning the renewal of subscriptions to Boots' Booklover's Library.

Circular No. 48/1935.

(To each branch secretary.)

Containing further information about Cefn-y-Mynach Private Hotel, Rhos-on-Sea, and enclosing copies of an illustrated brochure

July 15, 1935.

Circular No. 49/*Prov.*/1935.

(To each local correspondent of the Provident Society.)

(*a*) Giving details of the new Hospital and Nursing Home Scheme and enclosing a pamphlet dealing with and an application form for membership of the scheme.

(*c*) Setting out form for the requisitioning of further copies of both pamphlet and application form.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 31.—Branches to remit all monies due to the Association to Headquarters.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months: February, 42; March, 41; April, 39; May, 39; June, 40; July, 43. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows :—

	May	June	July
Food	18	20	26
Rent	58	58	58
Clothing ..	90	90	90
Fuel and Light ..	70	70	70
Other Items ..	70	70	70

(*Continued from Column Three*

Whitley Councils

For some time the North-Eastern District Committee has been devoting itself to the re-formation of the Provincial Council in that area. Progress has been slow but steady, and matters have now advanced so far as to request the standing conference of joint councils to convene a meeting of officer organisations in the area at an early date.

It is hoped that we shall shortly be able to report the launching of a North-Eastern Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services.

A local joint committee has been constituted by the Hayes and Harlington Urban District Council. Each side appoints eight representatives and the staff side consists of seven N.A.L.G.O. nominees and one Municipal and General Workers Union nominee.

SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

Superannuation

The Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, has now been adopted by the Caernarvonshire County Council and the Hyde Corporation.

At a special meeting of the Montgomery County Council superannuation for the administrative and clerical staffs of the County Council was definitely adopted as from January 1, 1935.

The Divisional Secretary met the Staffing Committee of the Brierley Hill Urban District Council on June 18, when it was decided to obtain the report of an actuary; the Uttoxeter Rural District Council, on June 26, when it was resolved to adopt the Act for full-time officers; and the Oakengates Urban District Council on July 12, which resolved to request the Salop County Council to arrange for an actuarial report with a view to admission to the County Council Scheme.

The Divisional Secretary has also submitted an application to the County Borough of Dudley to consider the adoption of the Act.

Application has been made by the Barnsley Town Council for the adoption of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922. The Divisional Secretary has interviewed the Finance Committee on the matter.

The General Purposes and Parliamentary Committee of the Middlesbrough Corporation has discussed an application made by the Association for the adoption of the Superannuation Act. The matter was sympathetically received and referred to the Salaries Committee for report.

The Divisional Secretary has interviewed the West Hartlepool Town Council in respect of the adoption of a superannuation scheme. He was accompanied by Mr. Morgan, of the General Municipal Workers Union. The strongest possible representations were made by both speakers. Although there was a majority in favour of adoption, the requisite two-thirds was not obtained.

The Divisional Secretary had a long interview with the Earby U.D.C. on the question of superannuation and general conditions of service. An application for the adoption of the scale of salaries of the West Riding Joint Council was made. The U.D.C. decided to proceed further in respect of the application for superannuation, but deferred for the present the question of grading the members of the staff.

Drighlington U.D.C. have obtained an actuarial report.

Salaries

The Divisional Secretary met the Hucknall Urban District Council on June 4 in support of an application for an increase in the salary of an officer. The Council acceded to the application.

The salaries of the health visitors at South Shields have been a bone of contention for some years. We are pleased to report that at the fourth attempt we have succeeded in rectifying a most disconcerting and anomalous position. For some years the salaries of the older health visitors have been fixed at the totally inadequate amount of £150 per annum. Visitors recently appointed have been on a scale rising from £180 to £200 per annum. The Divisional Secretary has had a number of interviews with the Health Committee extending over a period of years and the committee, generally speaking, has been sympathetic towards bringing the salaries of the older visitors up to the level of the more recently appointed officers. The Council, however, hitherto has refused to agree to the committee's recommendation. In order to get over the difficulty and ease the situation somewhat, a proposal was made that the salaries of the older visitors should be increased by two annual increments of £15 to bring them up to the minimum of the new scale and thence by £10 to the maximum of £200. The Council has agreed to this proposal and its action has given general satisfaction throughout the department.

Arising from several meetings the West Riding Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services have recently issued a new booklet setting forth the conditions of service recommended within the area. The booklet is of an interesting and informative character and contains, in addition to the scales of salaries, general information relating to publicity regarding salaries and promotions, superannuation, draft constitution and functions of a local joint committee, etc.

Revision of salaries has recently taken place by the Whitley and Monkseaton Urban District Council and the result may be regarded as being fairly satisfactory. Consideration is being given to the question of grading the staff.

Anomalies arising out of the new salary and grading scheme adopted by the Corporation of Scarborough have been discussed between the Divisional Secretary and the chairman of the Finance Committee. Further negotiations are pending.

An interview between the Divisional Secretary and the Special Sub-Committee appointed to consider the grading scheme of the Bradford Corporation has taken place. A number of important representations were made, and it is expected that a further interview will be granted in the near future.

Grading

The Folkestone Branch is to be congratulated on obtaining improved salary increments. Formerly, the increment for all grades was £10 per annum only, but this has now been raised to £15 for certain grades and £25 for the upper grade. The Council has also agreed to pay one additional increment to officials of the five upper grades, after five years' service at the maximum applicable to those grades.

Office Hours

A long-standing grievance at Bolton has now been settled between the Corporation and N.A.L.G.O. in connection with the closing of Corporation offices at 5.30 p.m. instead of 6 p.m.

A concession of some importance has been made by the Council of a metropolitan borough which it is hoped will set an example to be followed by other authorities. On representations made by the local branch executive committee the Council has agreed that, subject to the exigencies of the service, the official staff shall be allowed, on a rota, special leave on one Saturday morning in each month. It has further been conceded that if for any official reason an officer is prevented from taking his leave in the normal course he shall be allowed a convenient afternoon off duty in lieu.

As a result of an application by the local branch the West Hartlepool Town Council has agreed to the municipal offices being closed at twelve o'clock on Saturdays instead of one o'clock as hitherto.

Holidays

A new scale of staff holidays has been inaugurated by the Rotherham County Borough Council as follows :—

Officials and clerks with under £230 per annum ..	12 working days
After 20 years' service ..	15 „ „
With £230 per annum and over	15 „ „
After 20 years' service ..	18 „ „

As a result of an application by the local branch the West Riding County Council has amended the holidays of those members of the staff in receipt of salaries up to £260 per annum as follows :—

On entry to county service ..	12 days
On completion of 10 years' service	15 „
Over 15 years' service	18 „

(*Continued at foot of Column One*)

Local Government Service

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Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

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HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME SCHEME

IT is just as well to refresh our memories as to the reason for launching the Hospital and Nursing Home scheme.

A few years ago there was a demand amongst the members for a scheme which would enable them to insure against the unexpected financial responsibilities which follow surgical operations. It was felt at the time that the two schemes of the Provident Society did not adequately provide against such contingencies, which more often than not come upon one suddenly and without warning.

It was not an easy matter to solve, and at first a solution to the problem was not at hand but Conference again repeated its demand, and now we have the final approval of a scheme which, in the main, resembles very much the schemes which have been operated successfully for a number of years by the Civil Service and Lloyds Bank Limited.

Meeting Heavy Burdens

This new section of the Provident Society's activities is not intended to be an alternative to the present sickness insurance scheme, but to meet the heavy burdens which follow upon surgical operations and provide help when one is running up doctor's bills but not actually absent from business. It has been approved by an eminent actuary, and it is just as well to explain that all the safeguards which are giving rise to correspondence are actuarial safeguards.

Perhaps the scheme is a little constrained at the moment, but it is advisable to get a few years' experience before relaxing at several points. No doubt, what alterations take place in the future will be in the direction of better benefits; it is wise to start with a prospect of moving towards improvement than to offer a scheme so attractive that some day it would have to be tightened up.

The call at the moment is for one thousand members, because the scheme will not be put into operation on the 1st January next unless that number have enrolled. Considering the persistence of the demand for something of this kind at more than one Conference, we are entitled to assume that the one thousand members will be very quickly attained.

An ample supply of explanatory literature is available to Branches for the use of Branch Secretaries, and we have nearly a half year in which to recruit the first one thousand members who will be the means of opening up a scheme for a new and valuable form of insurance.

TRADING

WE wonder whether it is quite fair to the Association to leave the discussions at the conference on trading activities just where they are at the moment.

The National Executive Council has evidence that a considerable amount of preferential trading is done by members of the Association and he would be a very bold man who would attempt to compel the many thousands of members who do take advantage of schemes of this kind to refrain from doing so in future.

N.E.C's. Objective

They are doing it as members of N.A.L.G.O. and, consequently, N.A.L.G.O. becomes the object of criticism by organisations of retailers. We hold no brief for these organisations, because most of their assumptions are wrong and their arguments pretty feeble, but we must not fall into the same error of wrong judgment. What the National Executive Council wanted to do was to make some provision—and certainly not on the lines indicated by the critics at the conference—to regularise what is undoubtedly an undignified system of preferential trading. The position cannot be left where it was put at the Cheltenham Conference. N.A.L.G.O. has either to disassociate itself publicly from any such activity or to put it above criticism.

It must be remembered that common sense is still the most important factor in our lives. Those who put on the mantle of purity and who are above taking advantage of what is an "offer of the trader to give special terms" have no more right to force their opinions on their colleagues who regard it as legitimate business than others have to force their standard upon the other fellow.

An Association of 81,000 members must comprise all kinds of thinkers and one has to do a lot of things to please them all at one point or another of their membership. You cannot keep that number of members solidly organised on high ideals alone, for the simple reason that they are human beings and are made up of the same component chemical materials as their fellow men who are engaged in other occupations. They read the same newspapers.

There are members who think that as public officers they should not buy goods outside their own town and should pay the full retail price for them. There are members who think that they are entitled to buy in the best market. That point should be settled in the branches before blaming the N.E.C. for trying to do something which was primarily designed to save the members from the consequences of their own enthusiasm.

Some mistrust seemed to have crept into the minds of the delegates, perhaps through lack of understanding, but the N.E.C. had no desire to keep back information. It has confidence in the branches, and it had a good case.

Perhaps between now and the next conference it will be well to issue considered statements on the issues which were "sent back" and give each branch and district committee an opportunity to examine the proposals during the winter months.

HOLIDAY SEASON

WHILST August is usually regarded as the principal holiday month, it is obvious that everybody cannot be away at the same time. Therefore, many of our members will be back at their tasks, whilst others are on the eve of relinquishing their duties for a short spell. Perhaps August has become the recognised holiday month because about this time of the year Parliament rises; it is the Municipal recess; Schools close; and a number of people are by those and other circumstances compelled to make August the vocation time.

It is a pity so many cannot have a wider choice, for not only does it cause congestion on the railways and roads, but we know that during August prices rise out of proportion to those which are charged say two months earlier.

Perhaps if we could have an autumn break—a Michaelmas bank-holiday as it were—many people who could get away earlier in the year would not fear that long period of work without a break between the end of the summer vacation and Christmas.

Now let us leave this better planning of our work and holidays to a time when common sense will be less handicapped by personal interests and an obsolete calandar than it is to-day, and when the age of better planning will have dawned.

We express the sincere hope that those who have been away have had a good holiday and those who are about to go away will be equally fortunate.

NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY

DISCUSSIONS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AN important feature of the twelfth annual general meeting of the Nalgo Provident Society, held on Friday, June 7, 1935, in the Town Hall, Cheltenham, was the approval of the Hospital and Nursing Home Scheme prepared by the National Executive Council of the National Association of Local Government Officers.

Mr. W. H. Whinnerah (Manchester), Trustee and member of the Committee of Management, was voted to the chair, supported by members of the Committee of Management and Mr. L. C. Hill, C.B.E., the Secretary, and Mr. John Simonds, M.A., barrister-at-law, the Legal Secretary. There was a full attendance of members.

The minutes of the eleventh annual general meeting held on May 18, 1934, at Scarborough were taken as read, and confirmed.

The Financial Statement was submitted, and the CHAIRMAN called attention to the fact that there was a surplus balance this year of £1,058 14s. 3d., and as they had returned to the members 8½d. he thought that was a fairly satisfactory position. On the Rest Fund they would also find a balance to the good for the year of £11,617 18s. 6d., against £9,388 5s. the previous year, so that again was satisfactory. Likewise, the Deposit Fund showed a surplus of £6,018 13s., against £4,728 11s. 8d. for the previous year. It was also satisfactory that the Death Benefit Fund was up, the balance being increased from £651 17s. 1d. in 1933 to £696 5s. 2d. in 1934.

On the Management Fund, however, there was an increased deficiency of £273 11s. 1d., against £63 3s. 10d. in 1933. This had been brought about by an increase in the fees of the Local Correspondent, who, it was felt, deserved some additional payment. Certain office machinery had also to be purchased by N.A.L.G.O., in order to cope with the increased clerical and accounting work, and of this expenditure the Provident Society had to pay a proportion. It was not a recurring expense and the Committee anticipated that next year the small deficiency would be converted into a profit.

Replying to a question as to only payment of the fair amount as proportion, the CHAIRMAN said he would give an assurance on that point for the Treasurer was adamant on each section of the N.A.L.G.O. activities bearing the proper proportion of the expenses of administration. The Treasurer assured him that the allocation was *pro rata*, so there was no real cause for complaint. The details of expenditure were set out in the Balance Sheet, which he did not think called for further remarks from the chair.

The Financial Statement and Balance Sheet were formally moved and seconded and adopted *nem con.*

The Annual Report

The Annual Report was submitted and considered *seriatim.*

Several alterations of rules were proposed by the Committee of Management which were carefully considered and dealt with *seriatim.*

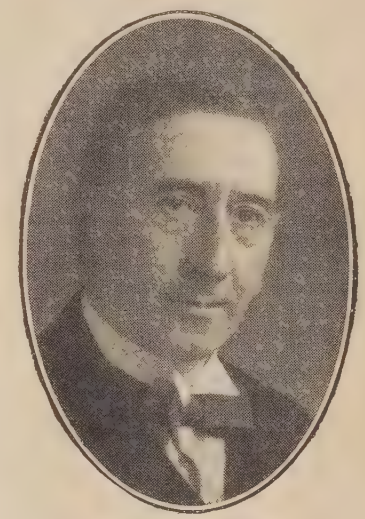
On the question of the alteration of Rule 12 with regard to members in arrears with their contributions, the Glasgow Branch submitted a recommendation to the effect that when a member is six months in arrears, notification to that effect shall be sent to him and unless such arrears are paid within thirty days of such notice, he shall cease to be a member of the section, subject to appeal to the Committee of Management within thirty days and all monies due shall be deducted from the member's "Rest."

The chairman said the committee had come to the conclusion that no alteration should be made in Rule 12, because the effect of the proposed amendment would be to expel a member who had not paid within thirty days after non-payment for six months, no matter what amount stood to his credit. They thought the present method of dealing with arrears of contributions should be continued.

The amendment was defeated and the report adopted.

On Rule 13, Sick Pay, the Glasgow Branch submitted an alteration to provide that in no circumstances should any member declaring on the fund who was three or more months in arrears be entitled to pay such arrears in order to qualify for benefit.

The chairman said, in reply to a question, that he could not give the number of members in arrears at the moment, but it was very small. As a matter of fact, it was only a question of about £10, as the Committee pointed out, and



Mr. W. H. WHINNERAH,
Chairman of the Provident Society

they did not think the alteration was worth while.

The motion to refer the matter back to the Management Committee was lost.

On the paragraph with regard to membership, the tables showing the progress made since the inception of the Society gave a total of 14,957 against 260 in 1920. The actual number of new enrolments under the Sickness and Death Benefits sections was 1,641.

The chairman said that he thought this part of the report was quite satisfactory.

On the paragraph regarding the Convalescent Home, the Committee of Management reported that last December the N.A.L.G.O. Benevolent and Orphan Fund decided to discontinue the old practice and only refund railway fares in necessitous cases on the application of the Branch concerned and after confirmation by the chairman of the Regional Committee. It had been the practice of the N.A.L.G.O. Benevolent and Orphan Fund to refund the amount of railway fares paid in excess of £1 to members recuperating after illness, those who had been admitted through the Fund or through the Nalgo Provident Society, but who are also members of the Fund.

Mr. Baker, replying to a question, said this matter had always been within the discretion of the B. & O. Fund Committee. As a Provident Society, he did not think they had any right whatever to take action in regard to the matter.

The chairman thought that Mr. Baker was correct, but if any member wished to move anything, it was open to him to do so. The rule distinctly stated "railway fare in necessitous cases to those applying for it." It would be possible to make a recommendation to the B. & O. Fund.

The secretary pointed out that this was only a matter of report for information and really only concerned the B. & O. Fund.

A motion was made to refer the matter to the B. & O. Fund for consideration, but there was no seconder.

The Committee of Management reported that when the annual audit of pass books for 1933 took place, a review was made of the Nalgo Provident members who were not also members of the parent Association, either through their being in arrears with their subscriptions or having declined to join. Members were requested to submit the white subscription receipt or green card or the secretary or treasurer of the branch was asked to submit a statement to the effect that the Nalgo Provident Society members were members of N.A.L.G.O. The review showed that the number of members who were not members of N.A.L.G.O. and not affected by Rule 3 (11) was 14 and only 33 members affected by this rule did not submit proof of membership of N.A.L.G.O.

A delegate suggested that the audited statements of membership sent to headquarters should be used to check membership and the green cards need not be forwarded. He moved the procedure be referred back to the Management Committee for further consideration.

This was seconded, and the secretary pointed out that there was no intermediate stage between the present procedure and having a complete annual record of 81,000 members which would have to be kept up to date. This would mean the appointment of no less than twenty additional clerks.

The reference back was lost.

Benefit Scheme Withdrawn

The chairman announced that at a meeting of the National Executive Council that afternoon, it had been decided to withdraw the report on a benefit scheme to encourage continuous membership in N.A.L.G.O.

The chairman said the proposed new scheme for hospital and nursing home benefits was optional and the best they could produce and he suggested it would meet with the approval of those requiring a scheme of this kind. The scheme had been gone into carefully by an actuary, who assured them if they commenced with a membership of 1,000 it would be of a solvent character. There would be no charge on anyone other than a member of the scheme, if additional money was wanted. The actuary had stressed that the benefits they were giving were perhaps on the conservative side, but they could be increased later on if desirable.

MR. L. CROW (Leeds), thought the scheme had been based on 45 years and if so, it would not be economic. There were possibly 1,000 members and their wives between 45 and 60 who in the first year would take advantage of the fund and there was a danger of the fund being overloaded by people who thought they were going to get benefit from it. It seemed grossly unfair that a man who joined the scheme at 30, when he was most likely to want it at 65, should have to give it up, while a man of 60 could join in the first year and go out at 65.

The chairman pointed out that although a man had to leave the scheme at 65, by his payments he had been insuring against sickness.

The secretary said the actuary's report, like all actuarial reports, was more or less on the right side. It would be far more disastrous to have to make a levy than to increase the benefits later, which they hoped would be possible after 5 years' experience. With regard to entry at 60 for the first year, when the scheme was first set up, no one must be denied the opportunity of coming in, but after that there must be some limit in order to prevent people from deferring their membership right up to the last moment and possibly throwing a burden on the fund. If they varied the scheme, then the cost of the scheme would have to be varied, as the actuary would have to revise his calculations.

(*Continued on page 229*)

OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL

MR. Joseph M. Reay has been promoted to the post of Clerk-in-Charge of the Local Taxation Licences Department of Durham County Council, in succession to Mr. John T. Shadforth, who has retired on pension after over forty years' service.

* * *

The death has occurred of Mr. Leonard Arthur Wallen, who for more than twenty years had been Clerk and Solicitor of the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council. He had been President of the Gwent Branch.

* * *

Mr. G. H. Walters has been presented with an illuminated address and an envelope containing a cheque from his colleagues and fellow-members of the local branch, on the occasion of his retirement after thirty-eight years' service in the employ of the Malvern Urban District Council, thirteen of which had been spent as Chief Cashier.

* * *

We extend our hearty congratulations to Mr. D. R. Bishop on his appointment as City Chamberlain of Aberdeen; to Mr. John P. Morrison on his appointment as Town Clerk of Paisley; and to Mr. D. B. Marns, of Dundee, who has been appointed Surveyor to Stirling County.

* * *

Mr. H. Stelling, Assistant Secretary to the Stockton Education Committee, who has completed 50 years' service in educational work in the borough, has on three occasions been elected President of the Stockton Branch of N.A.L.G.O.

* * *

The death has occured in his 52nd year of Mr. Ernest Redhead, Borough Collector of Lytham St. Annes. He had been in failing health for a long time. Mr. Redhead had had a long association with the rates collecting department of Lytham and St. Annes, coming from the municipal offices at Chorley to the service of the Lytham Council when little more than a youth. When Lytham and St. Annes were incorporated in 1922 he became the Borough Collector. There was a large assembly of public representatives at the funeral. Tributes to Mr. Redhead's memory were paid at a recent meeting of the Lytham St. Annes Branch of Nalgo.

* * *

Mr. John F. Guile, Clerk and Solicitor of the Huyton-with-Roby Urban District Council, who has been appointed Clerk and Solicitor of Hayes and Harlington Urban District Council, was for some years President of the Hucknale and Kirby Branch of the Association.

The death has occurred at the age of 61 of Mr. Ernest Edward Gower, of Paddington, who served for 35 years in the Public Health Department in the capacity of Chief Clerk.

* * *

We regret to report the sudden death, at the age of 47, of Mr. Percy J. Carter, Education Secretary of Luton.

* * *

A presentation of a filing cabinet has been made by his colleagues to Mr. Fred Idle, who retired recently from office as Assistant Rating Officer, after over 40 years' service with the Harrogate Corporation. Mr. Idle has been a member of the Harrogate Branch of Nalgo since its inception, and seven times President.

* * *

The death has occurred of Mr. Charles Griffiths, Manager of the Heywood Sewage and Destructor Works. Mr. Griffiths was a past president of the Heywood Branch of N.A.L.G.O.

* * *

Mr. O. Lewis Abbott, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Branch, has been appointed Deputy City Surveyor of Manchester. Mr. Abbott has for the past 14 years been engaged in the City Surveyor's Valuation Office, and has been in the employ of the Manchester Corporation for 24 years.

* * *

Mr. Christopher Raimes, Chief Sanitary Inspector of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who has retired after 44½ years' service in the Health Department of the Corporation, was recently presented by his colleagues with a gold watch.

* * *

Mr. William Gray, who succeeds Mr. Raimes, two and a half years ago took over the organisation and control of a new sub-department specially created to carry out the City Council's slum clearance programme. He holds Certificates and Diplomas in plumbing and building construction. His service with the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation extends to 21½ years, interrupted by war service.

* * *

The annual outing of the Merthyr Tydfil branch to Weston-super-Mare and Bath, was enjoyed by a large company which included the Mayor (Councillor David Davies, J.P.).

* * *

Mr. F. Thackeray, Borough Architect, Merthyr Tydfil, who has received the M.B.E. award on the occasion of H.M. the King's 70th birthday, is local secretary for the National Savings movement.

* * *

We regret to announce the sudden death of one of the Merthyr Tydfil branch members, Miss M. E. Rogers, School Nurse and Health Visitor, who had been employed by the Merthyr Tydfil Corporation for 19 years, and took a lively interest in Nalgo's activities.

NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY

(*Continued from page 228*)

After further discussion, the scheme was adopted, as submitted, two minor amendments being defeated.

(The scheme was approved by the Annual Conference later without discussion.)

Alterations of Rules

Alteration of rules made necessary consequent on the transfer of assurance to Logomia and the passing of the Hospital and Nursing Home Scheme were agreed.

The Committee of Management agreed to consider a motion of the Glasgow Branch which would make, in an illness of less than sixteen days, the "on" and "off" declaration forms sufficient.

Election of Committee

In accordance with practice, seven members of the National Executive Council will be nominated to serve on the Committee of Management and nominations were asked for the remaining three.

These were Messrs. H. R. Jones (Wolverhampton), S. H. Brodie (Glasgow), L. H. Taylor (Salford), R. Watson (Manchester), A. C. Eaton (Blackpool), J. Y. Fawcett (S. Shields), R. D. Brown (Barking), W. R. Mole (Durham C.C.).

It was announced later at the conference that the first three named had been elected.

The chairman said the National Executive Council had requested all ancilliaries of N.A.L.G.O. to meet on the Tuesday morning after the conference.

It was finally agreed, after a short discussion, that the next annual meeting should be held at 4.30 p.m. on the Friday before the conference, as heretofore.

Congratulations to Secretary

The chairman said it had been suggested the society should place on record their congratulations to the secretary on the honour conferred upon him by the King and the resolution was carried with acclamation.

Thanks to Mr. Whinnerah for presiding concluded the meeting.

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ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

By J. E. NEALE, Actor Professor of English History in the University of London, Author of "Queen Elizabeth."

A Centenary Oration Delivered to the Annual Conference

(*Continued from page 212 of July issue*).

What is the Sequel ?

WE have finished our survey of local government at the close of the sixteenth century.

What is the sequel? In the first place, the inherent weaknesses of the system grew as the demands on it increased. Take the J.P. An Elizabethan statesman complained that many people sought inordinately for the office "not of any mind to bring good to their county, but of a desire either to bear rule and sway or to be exempted from inferior services or to find immunity from common charges or to be avenged." A Member of Parliament in 1601 added another criticism. "A Justice of Peace," he said, "is a living creature that for half a dozen of chickens will dispense with a whole dozen of penal statutes. These be the Basket-Justices of whom the tale may be verified of a justice that I know, to whom one of his poor neighbours coming, said, 'Sir, I am very highly rated in the Subsidy Book; I beseech you to help me.' To whom he answered, 'I know thee not.' 'Not me, sir?' quoth the countryman. 'Why, your Worship had my team and my oxen such a day, and I have ever been at your Worship's service.' 'Have you so, sir?' quoth the Justice. 'I never remember I had any such matter, no not a sheep's tail.' So unless you offer sacrifice to these Idol-Justices, of sheep and oxen, they know you not. . . . They be like the wise men of Chaldee, that could never give judgment till they saw the entrails of beasts."

Indolence, tyranny, corruption were the vices apt to show themselves in the J.P. They are common human failings. Indolence was rampant owing to the motives that led many of the gentry to be justices. The office was becoming a point of dignity with them. You remember the dialogue of Justice Shallow and his cousin, Slender?

SHALLOW: "If he were twenty Sir John Falstaffs he shall not abuse Robert Shallow, esquire."

SLENDER: "In the county of Gloster, justice of peace, and *coram*."

SHALLOW: "Ay, cousin Slender, and *custalorum*."

SLENDER: "Ay, and *rato-lorum* too; and a gentleman born, Master Parson; who writes himself *armigero*, in any bill, warrant, quittance, or obligation,—*armigero*."

SHALLOW: "Ay, that I do; and have done any time these three hundred years."

What the father had been, the son naturally expected to be. Moreover, to be a justice kept some neighbour on the commission from interfering in the village over which one lorded it as squire. The number of J.P's therefore grew, not in relation to the needs of local government but to the desires of the gentry. Queen Elizabeth complained of the numbers, but they apparently continued growing, and growing rapidly, in the decades following her reign. There were about 2,500 in 1650. The number increased steadily. So did indolence.

There was one means of keeping these vices within bounds: vigilance and firm control by the central government. Star Chamber documents of Queen Elizabeth's reign abound with cases against local officials, and any victim of their tyranny could, to quote friend Shallow, "make a Star-Chamber matter of it." But the Tudor disciplinary system fell with King Charles's head. The Star Chamber was abolished in 1641 and the Restoration monarchy limped after the accident of January, 1649. It had the boldness under Charles II and James II to interfere with the autonomy of municipal government. The Glorious Revolution put an end to that folly. Consequently, from 1689 until the great reforming activity of the nineteenth century local government grew like an untended garden, without plan, choked with weeds, here some order, there riotous disorder.

Social Need Expanding

Grow it had to do, for trade and population and social needs were expanding. In the county the justices ruled the roost. There was no longer any means of challenging their decrees except by a troublesome and costly process in the High Courts. Such was the reign of law. By issuing general orders or pronouncing something to be a public nuisance they developed quasi-legislative powers; for were they not the tribunal before which breaches of their orders would be tried? It was like the old practice of Privy Council Proclamations, breaches of which were punished by councillors sitting in the Star Chamber. The country gentry had seen this mote in the monarch's eye, but being now the rulers of the country they did not see the beam in their own eye. The most famous instance of this legislative activity occurred in May, 1795, when the Justices of Berkshire met at the Pelican Inn, Speenhamland, and passed resolutions to deal with the problem of poverty, which were subsequently adopted also by the justices of other counties. They were made in good faith and are more understandable to-day when we too have an exceptional problem; but they revolutionised the statutory Poor Law, pauperised the community and were socially disastrous. The name these resolutions obtained—"The Speenhamland Act of Parliament"—and the heading—"According to Act of Parliament"—printed on one of the scales of income which they assured to each family, form the pithiest comment on their constitutional significance. Of course, like the borough the county as a community needed local legislation, local administration, and local justice; and these functions were inherent in the system of J.P.s from early times. The one important change was that by various devices the justices got rid of juries in their legislative-administrative functions. They dropped the democratic element. They became close bodies, like borough corporations, like Parliament.

However, I must not convey the impression of a wholly rotten state of things. A great deal of solid, unremunerative and more or less enlightened work was done by the J.P's. Speaking generally, the system worked well where the community remained rural; that is, in its proper setting. It worked well for those, the majority, who acquiesced in the social order:

"The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate,
God made them high or lowly and ordered their estate."

The system failed where the J.P. controlled growing urban centres. The duties here were particularly onerous and disagreeable. There were not enough gentlemen qualified by status or willing to undertake the office, and either there was a deplorable lack of magistrates or the qualification was lowered and the magistrates were deplorable. The justices of Middlesex, who controlled Westminster and much of London, "were generally," said Burke in 1780, "the scum of the earth—carpenters, brickmakers, and shoemakers; some of whom were notoriously men of such infamous character that they were unworthy of any employ whatever, and others so ignorant that they could scarcely write their own names." They were the notorious trading or basket justices, availing themselves of the powers vested in one or two justices. They set up offices and competed for business, since the small fees and fines incident to the judicial process could be made remunerative when multiplied in an urban centre. Extortion, blackmail, injustice were the inevitable outcome of the trade.

"So sorely did the trading harpies waste us
We suffered less from Spanish guarda costas."

This dreadful scandal was suppressed in 1792 and a system of stipendiary magistrates took the place of the Middlesex trading justices. The more respectable Middlesex Quarter Sessions remained, under the chairmanship of a banker of reputed piety, to show in the next decades that corruption was not a monopoly of the small man. It merely became insidious and colossal in respectable hands.

What of the Boroughs ?

And now what of the boroughs? We left them as close corporations. We also left them wedded to the country gentlemen in Parliament, for by the close of Elizabeth's reign the gentry monopolised the representation of the boroughs in the House of Commons. As yet this meant little or no corruption, but merely persuasion or coercion by local magnates. Corruption began in the seventeenth century and reached the lengths with which we are familiar in the eighteenth century. The consequences are significant. The monarchy made its last attempts to interfere with the government of boroughs in Charles II and James II's reigns. With the Glorious Revolution Parliament was in the saddle and the only chance of reform from without lay in its will. But the majority of the House of Commons sat for these close boroughs, while the Lords were equally interested in maintaining them, either because they owned Pocket Boroughs or for other reasons.

This is not all. In the eighteenth century the English constitution reached equilibrium. It reflected society in reflecting the dominance of the territorial class. The country lived under a rule of law, the rule of a law which was the palladium of property. In the early seventeenth century the Common Law had produced its prophet in Sir Edward Coke who boldly denounced the royal prerogative. "Magna Carta," he declared, "is such a fellow that he will have no sovereign." In the eighteenth century it found its prophet in Sir William Blackstone who extolled the constitution and declared the Common Law to be beyond the skill of earthly law-givers seriously to improve. Its faults could not be eradicated without grave harm to the subject. It was a perfection of imperfections. The conservatism and somnolence of old age were upon the constitution. Medievalists will tell you, with some exaggeration, that nothing was abolished in medieval government. New methods took the place of old, but the old continued alongside the new. Vested interests is the explanation. It is the explanation in the eighteenth century. Government was riddled with corruption and abounded in sinecures; but the spoils went into the right hands. The details are incredible. The office of Tally Cutter was not abolished until 1783, and even then abolition was not to be effective until the then holder retired or died. This medieval Dodo lingered until 1826, and his useless wooden tallies went up with such a fine roar when they were being burned in 1834 that they destroyed the old Palace of Westminster. A symbolic bonfire! Take a look sometime at "The Extraordinary Black Book,"

(*Continued on page 232*)

ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(*Continued from page 231*)

a propagandist publication of the early nineteenth century, and marvel at the anomalies of the *ancien regime* in England.

Obviously national planning was not to be expected from the eighteenth century. Non-intervention was its philosophy and policy. But development there had to be. At the end of the century towns were expanding prodigiously and villages becoming prodigious towns. We saw the sixteenth century borough coping with its problems of paving, water-supply, and scavenging. They were child's play compared with those two centuries later. Towns had expanded beyond the old circle of borough authority; moreover, there was the occasional indifference and more general incompetence of the borough corporations and the lack of moral authority which their close and often grossly corrupt character gave them. In default of national planning, local initiative remained: that is to say, private Acts of Parliament conferring on local commissioners the necessary powers to supply one or other of the services that an urban community required. There were hundreds of such Acts, and in this way sewers, paving, lighting, water-supply, police and other services were provided and maintained by commissioners authorised to levy rates. Unfortunately, these Improvement Commissioners, as they were called, were not the borough corporation, although they might sometimes include its members. This was the price paid for the close corporation. It meant the disintegration of the borough and a multiplicity and confusion of authorities. The borough, like the other organs of local government, only to a greater degree, called for reform. The need was urgent for national planning.

Jeremy Bentham

One of Blackstone's pupils at Oxford was Jeremy Bentham. He had the impertinence to publish a *Fragment on Government*, revealing the absurdity of his professor's classical work on English law. It was a portent: David slinging his stone at Goliath. Bentham brought the *ancien regime* to the test of his principle that the authority of the State must be founded on the general utility of its constitution. He was speaking the language of the nineteenth century, and it is to him and the disciples whom he influenced that the major reforms of the century owe most. Reform indeed was in the air. The greatest institution of all, Parliament, had been under attack from the middle of the eighteenth century, and when in 1832 the Great Reform Bill was carried, it was only a question of time before the close Municipal Corporations, with which the unreformed House of Commons had been so closely connected, should in turn undergo reform.

The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 was, all things considered, a bold and drastic Act. The elective principle for Councillors, which it established, was sound. So was the separation of justice from administration and the appointment of a professional Recorder. It conferred unlimited authority to levy rates, and by making the Corporation responsible for "the good rule and government of the Borough" gave scope for new developments and for the absorption of services still left in the hands of *ad hoc* bodies. The Act applied only to existing Corporations, and of these only to a proportion. Consequently, towns like Manchester, which had never been incorporated, were left in their old state; but provision was made for them to petition for incorporation.

The Act emphasised one principle in the history of English local government: that of local autonomy. And the greatest tribute to its success is that when later—lamentably late—in the century, the County at last came to be reorganised, Parliament—to use the familiar phrase—municipalised it. But there was a second principle that the Act utterly ignored. This was central control. As a matter of fact, the principle had been applied in the previous year in the Poor Law Reform Act of 1834. The need for a common standard of public health was later to extend it. Thus our local government developed during the nineteenth century through local autonomy, gradually and increasingly tempered by government supervision.

I referred earlier in this lecture to the late sixteenth century as in some ways the period of maximum satisfaction before the reforms of last century. I had in mind the blending of the two principles in local government. But central control then came from the monarchy, and now it is from Parliament. Or rather, for I know that you will hasten to correct me, it is from bureaucrats in Whitehall. Maybe you think that the wheel has come full circle back to the sixteenth century, only to-day it is a Leviathan with which you have to contend. I make no comment, remembering Raleigh's words, "Whosoever in writing a modern history shall follow Truth too near the heels, it may haply strike out his teeth." I have made my perambulation and am back in the Elizabethan period; and so, like the medieval scribe, I end with

Laus Deo.

NALGO SPORT

The finals of the Preston Branch tennis handicaps were played at the Dick Kerr United Club, Ashton, on July 12. The results were as follows: Ladies' singles, Miss M. Stansfield (Transport) (—15) beat Miss Heaton (Library) (—15.3) 6—2, 6—4. Gent.'s singles, Mr. T. Maymon (Electricity) (—30) beat Mr. T. Sherlock (Education) (—15.3) 8—6, 6—4.

In the Yorkshire District football competition semi-final Hull beat East Riding and Rotherham beat Sheffield.

In the table tennis competition Leeds defeated Harrogate in the final.

The West Midland District bowls (crown green) fifth annual individual merit competition was played at Wolverhampton on June 22. Cannock, Coventry, Oldbury, Sutton Coldfield, Salop County, Shrewsbury, Tipton, Walsall, and Wolverhampton branches were represented. There were sixty-four entrants. In the semi-final G. A. Baker beat C. G. Davies and C. S. Hawksford beat A. Till. In the final C. S. Hawksford beat G. A. Baker.

SCOTTISH NOTES

Lanarkshire

The most important event of the month, so far as service conditions are concerned, was the adoption by Lanarkshire County Council of Graded Scales of Salary. The Scales in some respects are not all that might be desired, but they will be, if properly worked, a great improvement on the chaotic conditions prevailing in Lanarkshire for some time past. In next month's issue we hope to be in a position to publish the Scales and give some details regarding placings, etc.

It is gratifying also to hear that there is a movement in Lanarkshire to place a number of permanent-temporary men in a Grade and have them included in the Superannuation Scheme. Their exclusion from Superannuation has been a great hardship to these men, many of whom have been in the Service of Lanarkshire County Council for over 20 years, but always in a temporary capacity.

Compensation

In our last issue we referred to Lord Carmont's Interlocutor in the case of Carnegie *v.* Roxburgh County Council and gave a résumé of the Lord Ordinary's judgment. An arrangement has now been made with the County Council of Roxburgh to settle the matter out of Court whereby Mr. Carnegie will receive payment of the Rating Act compensation withheld for 3½ years, and a sum will be paid by the County Council towards Mr. Carnegie's legal expenses.

Obituary

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of Mr. George Smith Laing, Town Clerk of Inverness, who passed away suddenly on 8th June. Mr. Laing was for many years President of our North of Scotland Branch, and he attended several of our annual conferences, where he was a conspicuous figure in his Highland dress. He was a very popular official and of a genial, kindly nature—one of those men whom it is always a pleasure to meet. By his death the community of Inverness and our Branch in the North have suffered a great loss. To his widow and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Dr. A. Wotherspoon, accompanied by Mr. G. W. Coster and Mr. W. W. Armitage, deposits N.A.L.G.O.'s wreath on the Cheltenham War Memorial.

LOGOMIA ANNUAL MEETING

PROGRESS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS : A RECORD YEAR.

Mr. S. LORD, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer of Acton, Chairman of Logomia.

THE forty-fourth annual general meeting of the members of the National and Local Government Officers' Mutual Insurance Association, Ltd. ("Logomia"), was held on June 11, 1935, in the Town Hall, Cheltenham. Mr. S. Lord, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., chairman of the Board of Management, presided, supported by Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E. (vice-chairman), Sir James Curtis, K.B.E., D.L., J.P., Messrs. W. W. Armitage, W. T. Halkyard, W. E. Lloyd, F.S.A.A., W. A. Shee, and W. H. Whinnerah, A.C.I.S., and Mr. John Simonds, M.A., the general manager.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the minutes of the annual general meeting held on May 26, 1934, in Scarborough, were taken as read and confirmed.

Chairman's Address

The CHAIRMAN, moving the adoption of the report of the Board of Management, said he would content himself with drawing attention to one or two of the salient features. He thought they ought to be well satisfied with the continued progress shown by all branches throughout the year. The total net premium income was £47,683, an increase over the previous year of £10,446. Total funds were £221,922, an increase during the year of £31,884, and of that £221,922, £221,115 was invested. The estimated value of the investments was £246,539, a difference of £25,724, and to this extent a secret reserve existed. The Board had never adopted the policy of writing up investments.

The main increase was in the Life Fund, with a total premium income during the year of £36,054, an increase of £7,891. The total funds at the end of the year were £126,300, an increase of £30,882. At the end of the year, 4,238 policies were in force, with total sums assured of £940,265. In connection with the Life Fund, it would be well to say a word as to the position of policy holders in relation to Logomia and to suggest the benefits derived from insurance with the Association.

The Association was formed in 1890 as a limited company, with share capital provided by members of the old National Poor Law Officers' Association, with two main objects, firstly, to obtain reductions in the rates of premium for guarantee insurance, and, secondly, to provide profits for the shareholders. In those days, the officers themselves, in almost every case, had to find the insurance premiums on the guarantee policies, which were very high, £1 2s. 6d. and £1 5s. per cent being often quoted. It was thought these guarantees could be effected at very much reduced rates and at the same time provide profit for the shareholders who provided the capital.

The venture was a complete success, and in the course of its career, the company had paid considerable profits, the premium rates to-day were very low, and they had also built up substantial reserves. That was the position at the time when it was arranged the old Poor Law Officers' Association should be merged into N.A.L.G.O., when, as a result of this merger, life policyholders with the Provident Society transferred their policies to Logomia. When policyholders were insured with the Provident Society, their total security was the accumulated premium income, but to-day the position was vastly different from the policyholders' point of view. The Company had hypothecated £20,000 of securities for the benefit of the Life Fund and the interest on that sum went to the Life Fund account. In addition, there was the security of the £32,000 reserve fund and £40,000 uncalled capital.

Life Fund Profits

Last year, the Board submitted an amendment of rules, which provided that no profits of the Life Insurance Fund should belong to the shareholders, but to the policyholders. In addition, in order to give the life policyholders some say in the working of the Life Fund, the Board agreed that one free share, 10s. paid, should be issued to every policyholder and that had been done. The majority of those attending the meeting were also attending the Conference, to whom free shares had been issued, and they had the right of dealing with any business which came before the meeting. The only profits available for shareholders were profits from funds other than the Life Fund. The Board had agreed only a certain percentage of administration expenses should be charged to the Life Fund, the balance being borne out of the profits of the shareholders. Not only had the Board honoured to the full their obligations to the original Provident Society policyholders, but had acted very magnanimously towards them.

MR. LORD went on to say that the question of increasing premium rates had been under consideration. Of course, no increases could be made in the rates applicable to the policies already issued. They knew the position of the money market and to-day gilt edged securities hardly provided 3 per cent. gross. Since the rates were fixed, the income tax law had been amended and they had now to pay income tax on the interest. Fortunately, they had an arrangement with the Building Society and from them Logomia were getting 4 per cent, out of which they had to pay tax, but last year there was a substantial reduction in the average interest earned. The Board were loth to increase premiums, but other insurance companies were faced with the same problem. Competent actuaries were advising them on the matter.

Fidelity and General Fund

Referring to other branches of insurance, the Chairman said the Fidelity and General Fund was in a satisfactory position. There had been a substantial increase in employers' liability and fire business and the Board maintained on the account an adequate reserve. There had been some controversy as to whether it was necessary to maintain separate reserves on the different funds, but it was the normal practice of insurance companies to do so and the Board thought they ought to keep in line with the general policy adopted in the insurance world. The general reserve was available for all funds.

The general reserve fund was £32,665 and the Board were submitting a notice of motion for the alteration of the rule which provided that interest or dividends on the reserve funds should be added to the fund. In the early days such a rule was necessary in order to build up a reserve fund, but the position to-day was entirely different. The amount of the reserve fund was in the hands of the directors and if at any time the Board desired it should be increased or decreased, it could be done with the approval of the shareholders.

In conclusion, Mr. Lord thanked his colleagues on the Board whose support he much appreciated. They had had a trying year, the problems before them involving a great deal of detailed attention and he would assure the members their interests were safe in the hands of those serving on the Board. He also thanked the medical referees, Doctors Barnes, Scrase and Thomas, the local correspondents, the General Secretary and General Manager and his staff. He suggested a letter of congratulation should be sent to Mr. Hill on the honour conferred upon him by the King. (App.)

25 Years' Progress

MR. G. W. COSTER, seconding the adoption of the report, referred to the tremendous amount of work put in by the Chairman. At the 19th meeting of the Company, held in Bristol 25 years ago, they were just beginning to congratulate themselves upon their stability. Other companies had been compelled to bring their high rates for guarantee insurance down, so that everybody required to find security had benefited by the formation of Logomia. In 1910 the total funds were £38,000 and the premium income £4,495, while in 1930, when the fusion with N.A.L.G.O. took place the figures were £100,000 and £10,000 respectively. From that time the figures had grown much bigger.

Replying to a question regarding the increase in fidelity claims during the year, the Chairman said an average had to be taken over a period of years in this matter. The Board did not want to take unprofitable business and applications were carefully scrutinised.

Some discussion took place as to the payment of correspondents' fees, which are now paid through the local branches, the Chairman explaining this was done in response to a request from the National Executive Council. This policy applied to every sectional interest of N.A.L.G.O.

The report was adopted unanimously.

MR. W. E. LLOYD submitted the financial statement, congratulating the Board of Management on a very successful year. He moved the adoption of the accounts.

The accounts were adopted, after several questions had been satisfactorily answered.

Proxy Voting

MR. H. A. BROWN, O.B.E., asked permission to withdraw his notice of motion with regard to proxy voting in favour of a motion, notice of which had been given by Mr. R. W. Ramsay as follows :—"That this meeting is of the opinion that proxy voting is undesirable and that the Board of Management be requested to consider ways and means of abolishing this form of voting."

MR. RAMSAY, moving the resolution, expressed the opinion that proxy voting in principle was undemocratic and unsuited to the spirit of the age.

MR. BROWN seconded, and in the course of the discussion which followed, SIR JAMES CURTIS opposing the motion, said what was proposed in the name of democracy was really disfranchisement of the many by the few; that he regarded as autocracy. In all limited companies, proxy voting was permitted. The rules upon which Logomia had been founded and had continued to be worked provided for proxy voting, and no sound business reasons had been given for abolishing it. No serious mistake had been made in the past by the use of proxy voting, while five out of the nine directors were well-known N.A.L.G.O. workers. It was but recognising realities to say if the annual meeting of Logomia continued to be

(*Continued on page 239*)

BOOK REVIEWS

Two Social Problems

THE ENTRANCE TO INDUSTRY. THE EXIT FROM INDUSTRY. Two reports published by Political and Economic Planning, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1. (Price 1s. each, 1s. 3d. post free.)

These two documents are very important, for they are both surveys conducted by experts. The Entrance to Industry is a survey of points of contact between education and industry in Great Britain, together with proposals for the raising of the school leaving age and for part-time continued education until eighteen, whilst the Exit from Industry is a survey of the provision for old age and for retirement from "gainful occupation" in the United Kingdom, together with proposals for a national retirement pension scheme.

These documents should be read and studied objectively by local government officers. Of the first document, without going into details, it is sufficient to say that the stress has been laid upon the importance of the fourteen to eighteen period—a period when there is such a wide gap in social services, strange though this may seem, because the adolescent age is so obviously highly important.

The paper on the Exit from Industry deals with matters which are much more controversial from many points of view than those which treat of the entrance into industry, and to solve this problem, Political and Economic Planning recommends that the simplest and least expensive way to ensure that all wage earners were covered by retirement pension scheme, would be for the State to extend the existing contributory pensions arrangement so that an augmented Old Age pension should be payable to insured persons and their wives at the age of sixty-five, provided that they retired from insured employment. It suggests, further, that an additional pension of ten shillings and five shillings per week, respectively, should be given to insured men and women on their retirement at sixty-five; that the wives of contributors who were under sixty-five, but not under fifty, and who had been married at least five years should be given a pension conditional on their own and their husband's retirement when their husbands reached the age of sixty-five; and that the existing pension of ten shillings per week paid to the wives of contributors who are over sixty-five should remain as at present.—D. J. P.

The State

THE STATE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE, by H. J. Laski (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 40 Museum Street, W.C.1). 7s. 6d. net.

This book examines the central problems of modern politics. Its opening chapter, the "Philosophic Conception of the State," is at once a discussion and a critical analysis of the various major definitions of what is the state which have been promulgated from time to time by the world's great thinkers from Plato to Karl Marx. The state, its claim to authority, to obedience and to co-operation, it is shown, are all based upon one thing—property. The second chapter applies this conception of the state to the real world. It explains what is economically wrong with post-war civilisation. If it over-emphasises the economic aspect of our ills, it is because we are apt to think chiefly in economic terms and to ignore political, religious and social aspects of our whole life. More than this, it is becoming increasingly realised that we are passing through a mental as well as an actual transformation of the economic basis of organised society and, therefore, it is but natural that economic considerations in the scheme of things generally must at present receive a relatively greater degree of attention. This highly controversial question of the economic organisation of the state leads on to the consideration of the place of the state in the international community. Although the state seeks to control every organisation within its borders, for no matter what purpose that organisation might be formed, no state is willing to submit to the control of any higher power. Unless the whole of Professor Laski's perspective is wrong, events are rapidly moving in the direction of a crystallisation of opinion into two camps—fascism and communism.—D. J. P.

Two Useful Books

The spring lists of George Allen & Unwin (Museum Street, London, W.C.) have provided at least two very useful books which are curiously inter-related, although by different authors. In the order in which they should be read, the first is Charles A. Beard's "The Economic Basis of Politics" (4s. 6d. net), which discourses on the various forms of governments, the reasons why various countries have different forms of government, the causes of revolution, etc. The variety of checks and balances which have been devised throughout the ages have been, the author avers, for one purpose only and that is the preservation and extension of the economic status of the party, interest, or group that happens to wield power at a given time, and he maintains that extension of the franchise cannot, or, at least, has not up to the present, altered this basic principle of governmental action.

The second book is C. Delisle Burns's "The Challenge to Democracy" (5s. net). What Dr. Burns does is to put something much better than dictatorship before the reader; he makes out a case for democracy, and it is a case which fires the imagination and makes one realise that it is not enough to say that democracy is the best organisation of society, but it is necessary to tell how our existing democracies should be strengthened and extended in order to meet the challenges which are hurled at them from various quarters of the world. In other words, he idealises the "functions of nobodies," and it is worth while noting that the development of local government and its allied public services is one of his first principles.

Reconstruction in U.S.A.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES (P. S. King & Son, Ltd., 14 Great Smith Street, S.W.1).

This book, which has been published for the International Labour Office of the League of Nations, gives a descriptive analysis of the measures of social and economic reconstruction taken in the United States during the first fifteen months of the Roosevelt administration. It traces the working out and development of the recovery and reconstruction programme in the fields of industry, agriculture, and finance, special account being taken of those aspects likely to prove of particular interest to employers and workers. It is a point for debate whether the "monetary profit" demanded by the workers in the shape of increased wages is less noble than the "social values" which are defended by the President when he takes measures to prevent labour from organising in the way it wishes.

But, as this book makes clear, it would be premature just now to try to assess the success or failure of the administration, for undoubtedly the reforms which it envisages are of so far-reaching a character that probably a decade will have to pass before a true perspective of its efforts can be attained.—D. J. P.

Treatise on Education

Education Officers will be particularly interested in a paper which has been reprinted from Volume XXVII, Number Two, April, 1935, of the *Sociological Review*, entitled "Ability and Opportunity in English Education," by J. L. Gray, M.A., and Pearl Moshinsky, B.Sc.(Econ.). The authors of this paper have set out to examine to what extent the existing machinery of social selection adjusts educational opportunity to individual ability, and, in comparing average figures for different social groups, they are, in effect, comparing the net capability of groups of individuals which make very varied contributions to the net personnel of the society in which they live.

They examined over 10,000 individuals between the ages of 9 years and 12 years 6 months drawn from the public elementary (including central), secondary, private, and preparatory schools in the London area. They were tested with the Otis Advance Group Intelligence Test (Form A), and assigned intelligence quotients on the basis of the existing American forms.

This paper is a very useful addition to the paper issued by Political and Economic Planning on the "Entrance to Industry," and the two documents between them provide ample material for some very valuable research work in the education of the child.—D. J. P.

Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes

The Prospectus of the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes containing the syllabuses for the session 1935-1936 has just been issued. Attention is drawn to certain developments, the most important of which are the revision of the Higher National Certificate Course in Mechanical Engineering under which the list of options subjects has been "extended" and provision made for post certificate work, and the remodelling of the Higher National Certificate Course in Electrical Engineering under which the adoption of a cyclical arrangement of subjects is now made possible.

The final rounds in the eighth annual bowling competition for the "Lewty" cup (Preston Branch) were played in Ashton Park, Preston, recently. The results were: Semi-finals: Parker, Town Clerk's Department (4), 21, W. Fisher, Docks (5), 19; J. Bates, Ribble Traffic Department (5), 21, F. Spencer, Water Works Department (4), 20. Final: Parker 21, Bates 1.

Winners of other prizes were: 5th, H. McKie, Transport Department; 6th, N. Seed, Education Department; 7th, E. Maymon, Docks Office; 8th, J. Winder, Borough Surveyor's. The prizes were presented by the Town Clerk and president of the branch (Mr. H. E. Nutt).

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For latest Local Government News see "MUNICIPAL JOURNAL"

AT RANDOM: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT TOPICS

By HYPERION

N.A.L.G.O. Summer School

THE Summer School was held this year at Balliol, Oxford. Balliol is famous, among other things, for its intellectuals and its "Black Men." It was reputed, at one time, to have a much higher percentage of coloured students than other colleges, and the undergraduates of Trinity used to annoy their neighbours at Balliol by howling at them: "Balliol! Balliol! bring out your black men!"

Milner, H. H. Asquith, Philip Guedalla, Beverley Nichols were all Balliol men. Asquith is said to have been responsible for the often-repeated epigram that the principal advantage to be derived from a Balliol education is "a tranquil sense of effortless superiority."

Let us hope that the Summer School students this year have not been bitten by the 'superiority" bug. I don't think there is much danger of that.

The Chain Letter Craze

Chain letters are again sweeping the country, but this time they constitute a so-called 'Prosperity" Club, and are not of the religious kind in which you were threatened with penalties dire and diabolical if you broke the chain. The present 'chain' conjures up visions of a postman staggering up to your front door with 3,125 sixpenny postal orders, and all for your outlay of sixpence. I have one of the letters before me now, and this is how it reads:—

At the top of the letter are five names and addresses, then it goes on:—

READ THIS CAREFULLY AND ACT.

Within three days make five copies of this letter, leaving off the top name and adding your name and address to the bottom of the list. Post or present your five copies to five of your friends.

IN OMITTING THE TOP NAME SEND THAT PERSON SIXPENCE. When your name advances to the top of the list, there will be a distribution of 3,125 letters and if all new members follow the above instructions implicitly you will receive £78 2s. 6d. inside 28 days. Is this worth sixpence to you? THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO FURTHER ASSESSMENT OR CATCH.

Now on the face of it, there must be a catch somewhere,—and there are or were, several. It is said that the police in some towns suspect a clever swindle. Well there was but it came at the beginning, not now at the chain's present stage. In the first place the 'chain" had to start, and it probably started with some wise individual sending out about 100,000 of the letters to that number of addresses culled from a directory with his own name at the top of the five given in the letter. Even if only 5 per cent. of the addresses 'bit," the sender was in clover, could pack up and let the chain go it's own way.

Here is Low's version of the perfect chain-letter:—

Dear Sir,

DO NOT BREAK THE CHAIN OR YOU WILL HAVE BAD LUCK!!

Write out and post copies of this letter to five other mugs. Then sign your name on a piece of paper, carefully place it in the waste-paper-basket, send one pound to Mr. Low and see what happens.

IN THIS WAY THE DEPRESSION CAN BE CURED!!!

No need to get up at all in future, anyway, now that we have discovered how to live without working.

A New Rating Decision

"There is a dancing academy at the bottom of my garden and a group of young ladies dressed in loin cloths up the trees. That is not very nice."

This was the reason put forward by an Enfield 'bus conductor before the North Middlesex Assessment Committee yesterday for a reduction in his rates assessment.

The committee decided to reduce the assessment by £1.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Vers libre

'Twas at a dance
She said:
"I think
Poise counts a lot,
Don't you?"
But all the poise
The girl had got
Was simply
Avoirdu.

From "Hullabaloo," the Official Magazine of Letchworth Cure Week.

Strange Street

Until recently Mr. Beverley Baxter was Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily Express*. In 1920 he turned up in London—a young Canadian officer who had spent his gratuity and was looking for a civil career. In "Strange Street" he tells, very frankly and racily, the story of his life, and especially the story of the last fourteen years of it which were spent in Fleet Street in what has been called "the famous combination of Max and Bax" (Max, of course, being Lord Beaverbrook). Mr. Baxter succeeds in "getting over" his personality in his autobiography, and a very charming and pugnacious and debonair personality it is. He is also a marvellous *raconteur*. I laughed *and* laughed over his account of his experiences in Burnley when for one matinee performance he took the part of Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly* with the Carl Rosa Opera Company. His account of Steve Donoghue riding Papyrus in the Derby is first-rate journalism; and he enjoys telling stories against himself as much as he enjoys recounting his triumphs and his "scoops."

Strange Street is packed full with good stories—most of them about famous men and women.

This one, for example, about Sir Thomas Beecham:—

"Last year when he was conducting in New York he was in his bath at the hotel when the telephone rang. Covering himself in towels, Beecham answered the 'phone and asked who it was.

"Sir Thomas, this is the acting honorary secretary of the Atlantic League of Mutual and Wider English Speaking Understanding."

"I don't believe it," said the conductor and went back to his bath.

Or this about Hannan Swaffer:

"I never read *Punch*," said Swaff.

"Why not?" asked Sitwell.

"Oh . . . I got fed up with those cartoons of one wooden British lion looking at another wooden British lion and saying 'Bravo, John Bull.'"

As Mr. Baxter well says, the most picturesque figure in Fleet Street will deserve a better epitaph than the one that was prepared for him:

"*Honi Swaff qui mal y pense.*"

As might be expected, we obtain many interesting sidelights on that "curious fellow," Lord Beaverbrook, although I think that a more revealing picture of him can be gleaned from William Gerhardi's description of "Lord Ottercove" in his novel *Resurrection*. And we see the present Minister of Transport in an unexpected mood.

"'We are laughed at by our juniors and our elders,' said Hore-Belisha. 'Unless we were killed in the war we had no place in history. We are ghosts. We are shadows We are nothing. We had to die to live. Let us drink to ourselves, the lost generation."

"The Good Old Days"

At no time, until the nineteenth century, did Parliament do much for Legal Reform. Anything that was achieved was the work of judges and lawyers, by the invention of new forms of procedure. For example, it was actually the law until the reign of William IV that no writ of debt, or detinue, a defendant could wage his law, i.e. swear that he did not use the money or detain the thing claimed, and produce eleven compurgators to swear that they believed him. If he adhered to this, and there were, no doubt, as many people as in Pickwick's time, ready to purge themselves before the judges of the land, at the rate of two and sixpence a time, he went free. Such a thing actually happened in 1824. Parliament did not abolish this medieval absurdity until 1833, but the lawyers had long rendered it innocuous by inventing certain writs, which were not liable to this form of defence.

Conflict

"People round here are awaiting the result of a very interesting conflict."

"What is it?"

"An irresistible blonde has just met an immovable bachelor."

From *Medley.*

Wanted—A New Job

Those who are thinking of applying for new posts might be interested in the following extract from a letter written by an Indian Babu who was desirous of obtaining advancement in the world.

Now, Reverend Sir, I am what dog says to rat, in tight corner, for domestic troubles come in plural and sometimes triplicate, causing slight earthquakes in Heavenly household when there is shortage of coin, and to add to this, my wife doth bring me in annual incremental successions, to the ramification of this generation, and by the Lord there is no end to this mischief.

You will therefore take notice, Noble Sir, and give me appointment in your office, where I shall show all things, including my abilities, which are drooping, and which will wither like fragile plant unless watered by your kind patronage in better job carrying more lucre.

Reply favourably to your humble petitioner, who is straining on beam end, and is duty bound I shall even pray for long life on your honour's head.

A "Close-up" of Lawrence of Arabia

Other things in the room were pictures, including Augustus John's portrait of Feisul, which Lawrence, I believe, bought from John with the diamond which he had worn as a mark of honour in his Arab headdress; his books, including a Kelmscott Chaucer; three prayer-rugs, the gift of Arab leaders who had fought with him, one of them with the sheen on the nap made with crushed lapis-lazuli; a station bell from the Hedjaz railway; and on the mantelpiece a four-thousand-year-old toy, a clay soldier on horseback from a child's grave at Carchemish, where Lawrence was digging before the War. . . . He told me of two or three of his schemes for brightening All Souls' and Oxford generally. One was for improving the turf in the quadrangle, which he said was in a disgraceful condition, nearly rotting away; he had suggested at a college meeting that it should be manured or treated in some way or other, but no action had been taken. He now said that he was going to plant mushrooms on it, so that they would have to returf it altogether. He consulted a mushroom expert in town, but found that it was difficult to make spawn grow. He would have persisted if he had not been called away about this time to help Winston Churchill with the Middle-Eastern settlement.—*From "Good-bye to all That," by Robert Graves.*

N.A.L.G.O. EXAMINATIONS

CANDIDATES WHO PASSED IN MAY, 1935

PRELIMINARY GRADE

Candidate's Number.	Name.	Department.	Authority.
2	Allam, J. W.	Health	Dagenham U.D.C.
4	Bedingfield, S.G.	Engineer's	Malden & Coombe U.D.C.
6	Biles, E. G.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
7	Birkett, A. J.	Health	Kendal B.C.
8	Blackwell, A. S.	Electricity	Shoreditch M.B.C.
12	Brabner, V. G.	Engineer's	Walthamstow B.C.
15	Brooman, G. F.	Electricity	Wimbledon B.C.
16	Cash, S. A.	Health	Yiewsley & West Drayton U.D.C.
22	Cole, L. W.	Health	Essex C.C.
25	Collie, S. C.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
27	Coveney, J. A.	Treasurer's	Stepney M.B.C.
31	Dewhurst, W.	Finance	Warrington C.B.C.
32	Dunsmore, E.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
35	Faber, W. G. J.	Engineer's	Walthamstow B.C.
36	Fawbert, E.	Engineer's	Dagenham U.D.C.
39	Ford, A. G.	Treasurer's	Warrington C.B.C.
40	Ford, C. A.	Health	Salford C.B.C.
45	Gawthorpe, J.	Health	Eccles B.C.
47	Gilling, S.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
49	Gray, G. W.	Surveyor's	Caterham & Warlingham U.D.C.
50	Gray, L. R.	Surveyor's	Heston & Isleworth B.C.
52	Hammond, S. F.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
53	Heald, E.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
54	Helps, W. A.	Accountant's	Esher U.D.C.
57	Johnston, J.	Treasurer's	Workington B.C.
58	Jordan, R. H.	Engineer's	Ealing B.C.
59	Kemp, J. F.	Health	Shoreham-by-Sea U.D.C.
60	Keniry, J. J.	Health	Stepney M.B.C.
61	Kent, W. P.	Health	Tottenham B.C.
63	Kippin, F. J.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
64	Kirby, K.N.	Health	Hastings C.B.C.
65	Lane, A.	Rates	Witney R.D.C.
66	Lee, W. R.	Health	City of London.
67	Lightening, S. V.	Sewage Works	Kingston B.C.
70	Male, Miss D.	Baths	Shoreditch M.B.C.
73	Markwell, Miss I. M.	Education	Enfield U.D.C.
74	McAllister, R. L.	Health	Hemsworth R.D.C.
78	Moore, K.	Treasurer's	Halifax C.B.C.
79	Moorhouse, G.	Clerk's & Accountant's	Chadderton U.D.C.
80	Newton, S. N.	Health	Salford C.B.C.
81	Nortcliffe, A.	Accountant's	Wombwell U.D.C.
82	Osborne, W. C.	Engineer's	Sutton and Cheam B.C.
86	Purves, A.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
90	Richardson, W.	Health	Huddersfield C.B.C.
91	Royle, J.	Health	Salford C.B.C.
93	Saunders, J. E.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
94	Scott, M. A.	Health	Whitby U.D.C.
95	Sherlock, E. W.	Finance	Sevenoaks R.D.C.
97	Smith, F. E.	Engineer's	West Ham C.B.C.
102	Stott, W. S.	Rating	Barnard Castle U.D.C.
104	Tagg, E. G. D.	Education	Heston and Isleworth B.C.
108	Thorley, K. G.	Health	Newcastle-under-Lyme R.D.C.
109	Tolfrey, H. W.	Treasurer's	Dewsbury C.B.C.
112	Viney, B. H. M.	Sanitary Inspector's	Hambledon R.D.C.
113	Wade, J.	Not a Local Government Officer.	
116	West, S. H.	Health	Rugby B.C.
117	White, T. S.	Clerk's	Tottenham B.C.
125	Moore, J. C.	Accounts	Northwich U.D.C.

INTERMEDIATE GRADE

151	Baldwin, H. R.	Surveyor's	Leicester C.B.C.
153	Barker, J. W. H.	Health	Willesden B.C.
160	Bristow, H.	Education	Wakefield C.B.C.
161	Brook, L. N.	Taxation	Bristol C.B.C.
164	Butler, J. H. F.	Health	Ilford B.C.
166	Camish, L. A.	Finance	Willesden B.C.
167	Cann, H. A.	Electricity	Hastings C.B.C.
168	Chapman, J. M. R.	Treasurer's	Southgate B.C.
169	Checkley, E. J.	Finance	Willesden B.C.
170	Clarke, L. P.	Land Agent's	Northamptonshire C.C.
172	Colgrave, A. H.	Education	Nottinghamshire C.C.
183	Gray, S. A. G.	Education	Leicestershire C.C.
186	Hinton, R. W.	Clerk's	Swindon B.C.
190	Lewis, J. P.	Health	Manchester C.B.C.
192	McCarthy, C. L.	Treasurer's	Wallasey C.B.C.
193	McDonagh, J. J.	Assessor's	Glasgow Corporation.
194	McFadden, J.	Rates	Belfast Corporation.
195	Maddison, J.	Accountant's	Darlington C.B.C.
196	Masters, W. H.	Treasurer's	Southampton C.B.C.
198	Newman, G. H.	Health	Willesden B.C.
200	Ramsay, J.	Public Assistance	Fife C.C.
201	Ramsden, W. N.	Clerk's	Skipton U.D.C.
202	Raper, L.	Education	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
205	Rogers, K. J.	Clerk's	Barking B.C.

(*Continued on page 239*)

BRIDGE FORUM

By NEVILLE HOBSON

PRIVATE BRIDGE

WITH so much publicity and discussi in connection with Bridge Conte —International, National and district it is as well to get back from time to time a true sense of perspective as regards the ga as a whole.

There are many who think that village cric is still the backbone of that game, and M Manning-Foster and other contributors to t Bridge Magazine have emphasised the ov riding importance of the private games Contract and Auction which are played with the family circle.

The expression "Family Bridge," howev is apt to conjure up visions of a type of ga of an unnecessarily slack and irresponsib nature, and it is just a little doubtful wheth that term visualises the happy medium which I wish to write this month.

I have frequently seen father and moth together with a member of the family and so friend playing Auction, and occasiona Contract, under circumstances which viol some of the main essentials of Bridge, as t real joy and inspiration of the game c never be experienced unless some measu of respect is paid both to the laws and gene etiquette.

The players who look at their hands a make speeches about "never having a cards," or complain that they haven't seen Ace or a King for the last half-hour undermi one of the most vital traditions of this gre pastime. Observations of this kind lead retaliation, with the result that the playe know the general nature of their partner's a the opponents' hands throughout the rubbe Incidentally, this is apt to prejudice those wi the poorer hands much more than is realis —quite apart from the proprieties of a gam the laws of which should be respected in t same way as those of cricket.

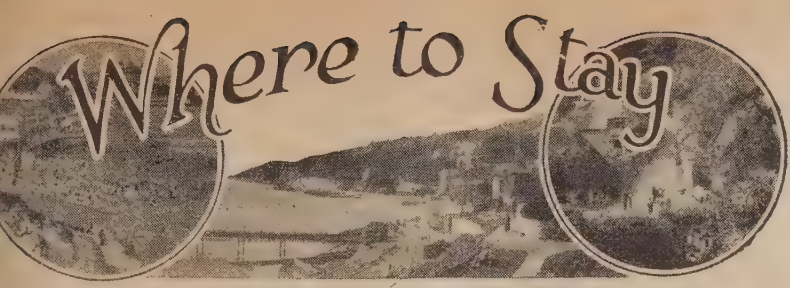
Playing the Game

If a player, young or old, places his leg front of a straight ball pitched on his wick he is reminded by the umpire that the la demand that he must retire from the gam and this principle is never seriously challenge either on the school field or the Test Groun There are, however, thousands of people w play Bridge with total disregard of the la and proprieties which lead to their doing thin which are definitely unfair—as it is clea improper to give information which shou only be deduced from direct bidding and t subsequent play of the cards.

Family Bridge of this nature is one extrem but the other is equally undesirable from t point of view of the average player, as t tensity of the atmosphere and the complex of the artificial conventions in the big co petitions eliminate the happy and frien atmosphere which should surely be a c commitant of any game.

Give me four players who know and resp the main rules and understandings and h taken the trouble to acquire a reasona standard of efficiency, who can sit down play a cheery game—with a minimum discussion and controversy. This is, doubtedly, bridge in its best and noblest fo —combining skill with courtesy, and ensu a happy retrospect of an interesting enjoyable evening.

This should surely be the aim of all bri players. Even in the family circle the dign of adherence to the proprieties of this g game should be respected, and any who think that such an atmosphere is necessa formal or uncongenial should try it out, an am confident they will never go back t state of affairs which condones what irresponsibilities appeal to the partic temperament or mood of each player.



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BLACKPOOL.—Healthiest and most commanding position North Shore; delightful sea view; recommended by bank and government officials. Apartments, 4/6 to 5/6 persons; Full Board, 9/6.—Boyd, Craiglands, 16 Harley Road. 'Phone 51318.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Apartments or Board Residence. Homely; no restrictions; three minutes to sea; moderate terms.—Stalker, 45 Carshalton Road.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—"Birchfield," 30 Redcar Road. Superior Apartments, Board Residence, Bed and Breakfast. Sea view, overlooking Gynn Gardens. Convenient. Mrs. Attwood.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Mrs. Lowndes, "Whinfield," Knowle Avenue (corner of Uncle Tom's). Half-minute from sea. Good beds. Highly recommended.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Private house. Three bedrooms, public or private sitting-room. Bed and breakfast. Five minutes from promenade. Highly recommended.—Mrs. T. T. Sykes, "Birkby," 27 Calder Road, North Shore.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—8 EGERTON ROAD, adjoining promenade, five minutes North Station. Convenient for golf, tennis and putting greens. Apartments, bed and breakfast, or full board. Terms reasonable.—Proprietress, MRS. HOWARD.

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BLACKPOOL.—Board-Residence, 7/-; Bed and Breakfast, 3/6. One minute sea; h. and c. water bedrooms; no irksome restrictions.—Mrs. Schofield, Grand Hill House, 32 Exchange Street, N.S.

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BOURNEMOUTH.—"Belfield," St. Johns Road, Boscombe. Ideal position East Cliff; three minutes pier and shops; central all attractions; separate tables; excellent catering; garages; gas fires; bedrooms. From 2 gns.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Beautifully situated, overlooking Sea, Pier and Chine; comfortable; homely; good table; garage. Board Residence from 2½ gns; reduced terms October-June.—Sibley, Boscombe Lodge Private Hotel, Boscombe Spa Road. 'Phone Boscombe 974.

BOURNEMOUTH.—**"Eversley," Durley Road.** Board-Residence. Charmingly situated in own lovely grounds. Lawn games. Unrivalled position. **One minute sea,** near pier, Pavilion, and all attractions. Modern comforts (including h. and c. running water in bedrooms). Excellent and varied menu. Congenial company. **Enjoy your next Holiday!** Comfort, cleanliness, and good cooking **personally** assured. **"Nalgoites"** highly recommend.—**Mr. and Mrs. Pyne. Tel. : 283.**

BOURNEMOUTH.—"LUSURIA" Grosvenor Gardens, Boscombe. Comfy Board Residence. Highly Rec.: Ex. Cook. Near Sea, amusements, etc. From 2 gns.—Phone: Boscombe 420, Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Howes.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Sandykeld Hall, Manor Road. "Like a Gem in a Beautiful Setting." Let this be the holiday you have longed for. A charming Mansion, standing in its own delightful grounds, fitted with hot and cold running water in all rooms, and only two minutes from the sea. This, combined with an excellent cuisine, also a liberal and varied menu, should complete your holiday happiness. Terms from 2½ guineas. Write for tariff.—L. G. Horspool.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Superior accommodation. Board or private apartments. Near Alum Chine. From 45/-. Highly recommended; beach-hut.—"Thorpe Arnold," Groveley Road.

BOURNEMOUTH.—"Belfield" St. John's Road, Boscombe. Three minutes Pier, Shops. Personal supervision. From 2½ gns. weekly. Garage available on premises.

BRIGHTON.—Delightful Holiday Quarters facing gardens and sea. Comfortable and homely. Five minutes Aquarium. Excellent catering, separate tables, smoking and sun lounges, baths (h. and c.). From 42s.; 7s. 6d. per day. Special terms winter.—Mrs. Adams, 10 Marine Square. Phone 4376.

BROADSTAIRS.—Comfortable Apartments or Board. Central; recommended; personal attention; quiet private road; five minutes sea; stamp.—Passmore, Florida, Carlton Avenue.

BROADSTAIRS.—Homely Board Residence. Five minutes sea and amusements; midday dinner; moderate terms; recommended; stamp.—Knight, Dunkery, 73 St. Georges Road.

CLEVELEYS. — Promenade. "Sea View" Private Hotel. Lounge; h. and c. throughout; separate tables; excellent cuisine. Apartments, Full Board, or Bed and Breakfast. Reasonable terms. Two minutes from Golf Course and Tennis.—Proprietress : MRS. KING.

CLIFTONVILLE.—"Courtlands," Athelstan Road. Adjoining Sea Front. Superior Board-Residence. June 42/-, July-August 52/6, September 45/-.—'Phone : Margate 1249.

COMBE MARTIN, N. DEVON.—Board Residence; Delightful Position; Minute Sea; Excellent Cuisine; Own Garden Produce; Ideal Touring Centre; Personal Supervision; Recommended.—N. "Fontenay."

COMFORTABLE Board Residence situated in old world garden, wonderful scenery; Heart of Mendip Hills central Weston-super-Mare, Cheddar, Burnham, Glastonbury. Moderate inclusive terms; garage.—Prewett, Orchard Cottage, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset.

DOUGLAS, I.O.M.—"CLIFTONVILLE," Clifton Terrace, Broadway. Tea, bed and breakfast, 5s. 6d. Full Board, 7s. 6d. Sea View. Minute Prom.—Mrs. Holmes.

EASTBOURNE.—Comfortable Board-Residence. Close sea and pier. Separate tables; every comfort; terms moderate.—Mrs. Dobson, Cromwell House, Cavendish Place.

EASTBOURNE.—Adjoining Promenade, central. Homely Board-Residence; midday dinner. July, September 45/-, October 40/-.—C. T. C. Goodman, 10 St. Aubyns Road.

EASTBOURNE.—90 Royal Parade, facing sea, central sports and amusements. Comfortable Board-Residence. Meals arranged to suit visitors' convenience. From 2½ guineas.

HASTINGS.—Board-Residence, 35s.; August, 42s. Sitting-room, piano, games. Minute sea, station. Large bedroom, friends sharing. Bed-Breakfast arranged. Stamp.—Reeb, 18 Devonshire Terrace.

HASTINGS.—Select homely Guest House. Good food and cooking; lovely and unique position, sea views, bracing air.—"Plynlimmon," West Hill.

HASTINGS.—"Holmesdale" Private Hotel, Holmesdale Gardens. Highly recommended; near sea. From 42s. to 63s. according season, room. Proprietresses ex-Nalgo members.

LLANDUDNO.—Superior Private Apartments. One minute pier, promenade, and central all amusements. Bed and Breakfast.—Lester, 2 Abbey Road, Llandudno.

LLANDUDNO.—"Lynwood" Boarding Residence, Colnmel Street, one door Central Promenade. Comforts, service, cuisine guaranteed. Separate tables. Sea and pier view from lounge. Sea bathing from house. Moderate terms. 'Phone : 6890. N.A.L.G.O. patrons recommend. Personal supervision.—Mrs. H. Gwillam.

OBAN, SCOTLAND.—Hawthornbank Private Hotel; beautifully situated. Every comfort, cheery welcome to "Nalgoites," special out-of-season terms.—'Phone 75, Jolly.

RYDE.—"Silverwood," West Hill Road. Board Residence, Restful holiday. Freedom. Comfort, Good cooking. Liberal table. Modern conveniences. Terms moderate. —O'Neill.

SCARBOROUGH.—Mrs. Helen Wade, 20 Norwood Street. Apartments. Bed and Breakfast. Central to all parts; near sea and station.

(*Where to Stay Advts. continued on next page*)

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WHERE TO STAY

(Continued from previous page)

SHANKLIN.—Hazeldell, Prospect Road. Superior Board-Residence. Near sea, station. Liberal table. Personal supervision. Terms moderate. Phone 389.—Mrs. Elliott.

SHANKLIN, OCHILTREE.—Superior Board Residence; delightfully situated; near sea and Chine; large cheerful bedroom; liberal catering; tennis, private bathing tents; mod. inclusive terms.—Proprietress.

SOUTHSEA.—Comfortable Board Residence, Bed and Breakfast. Near sea; highly recommended by N.A.L.G.O. members; terms moderate.—Andrewes, 132 St. Augustine Road.

SKEGNESS.—"Eastholme," Brancaster Drive. Comfortable Board-Residence, Apartments, Bed-Breakfast. Five minutes sea, gardens. Highly recommended. Terms moderate.—Mrs. Wheeler.

TEIGNMOUTH.—"Myrtle Cottage," Mere Lane. Board-Residence. South aspect, bathing from house, close station. Liberal table, moderate terms.—Mrs. Leach.

TORQUAY.—"Homeland," Crownhill Park. Comfortable, homely Board-Residence. Convenient situation; h. and c. water all bedrooms. 2-2½ gns. inclusive.—Mrs. Dobson.

TORQUAY.—Hotel Plaza, Braddons. Facing sea. South. Charming garden. Attractions four minutes. Excellent cuisine, own produce. Recommended. 'Phone: 4400. Proprietress.

TORQUAY.—"Lorna," Devons Road, Babbacombe. Board Residence, Bed and Breakfast. Near sea, tennis courts, golf links. Recommended by N.A.L.G.O.—Terms, Edkins.

TORQUAY.—Western House, Belgrave Road. Comfort and catering guaranteed. Separate tables, sunny lounge. Two to 3 guineas inclusive.—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas.

TORQUAY.—Astwell Hall Hotel. Sea front, facing south. Separate tables. **Bedrooms with hot and cold water.** Central heating; dancing; garages. (*Special terms to Nalgoites.*)—Resident proprietor, W. Riley, *ex-Nalgoite, Scarborough Branch.*

TORQUAY.—Heywood Lodge Private Hotel. Charming situation; central; best-quality catering; cleanliness and courtesy guaranteed; personal attention; garage adjacent; moderate.

TORQUAY.—Better to be safe than sorry. Book at DARTMEET HOTEL, Belgrave Road, for assured comfort, every room with h. and c.; excellent cuisine, and really central position (Torre Abbey sands, 400 yards; four cinemas within short distance). A few vacancies for August and September. Write now asking for particulars of special terms to Nalgoites.

TORQUAY.—"Armley House," Avenue Road. Ideally situated on level to Sea Front. Hot and Cold Water all Bedrooms. Personal attention of Proprietors (son a Nalgoite) ensures guests being made happy and comfortable. Terms from 2 gns. to 3 gns. No extras. Please write for tariff.—Mr. and Mrs. James Williams.

WESTCLIFF.—Allerton Private Hotel, Britannia Road. Four minutes from best bathing beach. Near park, tennis courts, etc. Garden. Moderate terms.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.—Board-residence; four minutes sea; modern, every comfort. From 35/-, according to season. Recommended by member of N.A.L.G.O.—Purdie, 23 Satanita Road.

WESTON-S-MARE.—Board Residence or Apartments. Excellent cooking; good varied menu. 3 minutes sea, shops, parks. Moderate terms.—E. Huey, Woodstone, Severn Avenue.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Links, Houses uphill, Ideal holiday guest house close to sands, riding stables, golf links. Moderate terms.—West.

WHITBY, YORKS.—Facing Sea and Spa. Separate tables. Terms from 9s. per day. Special terms early and late season.—Mrs. McInnes, Victoria, 12 Royal Crescent.

WEYMOUTH.—Comfortable Board Residence. Bed and breakfast or private apartments. Terms moderate; near sea; recommended.—Oakdale, Newberry Terrace.

YORKSHIRE MOORS, OSMOTHERLEY, NORTHALLERTON.—"Hambleton" Boarding House. Charming situation, delightful scenery. Tennis; garage; bath. Terms from 2 guineas. Book now, July-October.—(Proprietor N.A.L.G.O. Member).

FOREIGN STAMPS.—If those interested in colonial and foreign stamps will communicate with Box No. 112 they may hear something to their advantage.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHE

The East Cornwall Branch held a general meeting at the Guildhall, Saltash. The meeting was addressed by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. C. St. Leger Yeend, St. Austell, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. F. Pink, Wadebridge.

A gratifying increase in membership was reported, and more members were enrolled as a result of the meeting.

In connection with the centenary the West Suffolk and District Branch held a dinner at Bury St. Edmunds, recently. About sixty sat down to dinner, with Dr. J. F. Davidson (President of the Association) in the chair. Dr. Davidson proposed "Our Guests," and Lord Loch and the Mayor of Bury replied. "The County Council" was proposed by Mr. Cecil F. Pattle, while Mr. Lusher and Capt. Walmsley replied. Sir Wm. Brunyate proposed "Local Government Officers," and the reply was given by Mr. W. Spencer.

Superannuation

A dinner and dance in celebration of the centenary was held by the Chingford branch, recently. The president (Mr. S. Warburton), who was in the chair, pointed out that the Chingford branch was formed in 1929, and at that time had twelve members. Since then it had grown until it now has forty members—and that, he was pleased to say, represented a hundred per cent. of the staff.

Mr. Kershaw (from Headquarters) remarked that "no local authority is worth its salt unless it gives superannuation. And those authorities which have not adopted the scheme are not doing their best for their areas, since without it they cannot hope to attract the best kind of officer."

"The Ladies," proposed by Mr. H. Harrison, was responded to by Councillor (Miss) Mathieson who expressed the opinion that the few openings there were for women in the local government service was a little disappointing. Personally, she would have loved to have been a town clerk.

The Social Committee of the Great Yarmouth Branch—formed on 1st December, 1934 under the secretaryship of Mr. L. Rump (Publicity Manager)—organised a highly successful first outing, which took place on Thursday, 27th June, under ideal weather conditions. Over 40 members and friends took part in a coach tour including a visit to Coldham Hall. The party had the advantage of boating and other facilities, and later there was a musical programme for which Mr. Rump and Mrs. H. J. Moore were responsible. Mr. P. E. Rycroft, M.B.E. (Borough Electrical Engineer), Vice-President and Chairman of the Social Committee, expressed the sentiments of all present when he hoped that future ventures would prove as enjoyable and successful.

A Nalgo Swimming Club

A Great Yarmouth Nalgo Swimming Club has been formed under the chairmanship of Mr. E. H. Gower, who is Manager of the Great Yarmouth Bathing Pool. The Secretary and Captain is Mr. P. R. Delf (Treasurer's Dept.) and the Club is affiliated to the A.S.A. Nalgoites visiting Great Yarmouth will be heartily welcomed. A tennis club is also in course of formation.

The Nalgo (Metropolitan District) Operatic and Dramatic Society, with a membership of 120, was inaugurated on the 27th May, at a meeting held at 24 Abingdon Street, S.W.1. The Society's first production will be *The Gondoliers* (by permission of Rupert D'Oyly Carte, Esq.), at the New Scala Theatre, London, on December 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1935, and the next production will be a play to be presented at the Fortune Theatre, on March 26th, 27th and 28th, 1936.

Nalgo members are invited to join the Soci as Associate Members for an annual subscr tion of 10s. 6d.

The new Society's first President is M P. H. Harrold, Town Clerk of Hampstead.

The annual conference and week-end sch of the National Association of Juvenile E ployment and Welfare Officers will be held Liverpool from September 21st to 24th. T subject of the conference is "Vocatio Guidance," and various aspects will be trea by the speakers.

Bolton Town Council have acceded to request by the local branch for a reduction the office hours of the Corporation staff fr 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (Mond to Friday), the hours on Saturday, viz., 9 a. to 12.30 p.m., to remain as at present.

The half-yearly annual meeting of the He fordshire Branch was held at Ross-on-Wye July 13. Mr. J. E. N. Davis, Divisional Sec tary, referred to his first meeting with County Council Officers in July, 1920, wh they were concerned to obtain increases remuneration to meet the high cost of livi Since then steady progress had been mad among other things, a superannuation sche and a grading scheme had been adopted, serious difficulties in 1931 and 1933 regardi salaries surmounted, and the Associati had been "recognised" by the Cou Council.

Celebrations at Leicester

The City of Leicester celebrated the cent ary on June 22, when a garden party in gardens of the De Montfort Hall was given the Lord Mayor. A large company, represen tive of every section of the civic life of Leicest attended. Speaking during the celebrations, Lord Mayor emphasised the great importa of the occasion and the enormous benefits health and amenities which the citizens Leicester had enjoyed as a result of success local government. In an address on the cent ary, Mr. L. Hill, C.B.E., General Secretary N.A.L.G.O., said: "It is not the actual c of providing what we know now to be necess for a healthy and decent living within boundaries, but the cost of removing the obstacles, the old systems, which make u considerable part of our present-day finan burden."

A social evening was spent on the lawn the Maesycoed Children's Homes, Pontypri on July 9. After addresses by Mr. J. E. Davis, Divisional Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., Mr. Lewis Bevan, President of the Glamor Branch, a whist drive was held.

Ross-on-Wye officers have formed a bran

The Social Events Committee of the New Branch organised a successful outing to L don when about 35 members and friends m the journey.

ERRATUM

We regret the omission from the repo the proceedings of the Annual Confer contained in the July issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, of the decisions on the it taken in camera on Saturday, June 8. The items concerned were paragraph 104 of annual report and a notice of motion given the South Eastern District Committee N.A.L.G.O. Supplies, Ltd. Paragraph of the annual report was referred back to National Executive Council for further sideration after a card vote had been take which 37,556 votes were recorded in fa of, and 18,552 against, the reference b and the notice of motion of the South Ea District was carried.

LOGOMIA

(*Continued from page 233*)

ld at the same time and place as the A.L.G.O. Conference, the result of abolishing oxy voting would be to place the election of e Logomia Board in the hands of a comratively few shareholders, who being delees to N.A.L.G.O., found it convenient to end the annual meeting.

When Logomia, and N.A.L.G.O., for the rpose of extending their activities on behalf the Local Government Service, entered into working arrangement, no such proposal was er mentioned. On the contrary, a gentleman's reement had been entered into, and honoured, ereby three seats upon the Logomia Board re secured to nominees of the National ecutive Council. They were now asked to rap that gentleman's agreement and were ting shareholders to waive all their rights to a ice as to who should manage the affairs of e company in which they held their money stake. There were some 6,000 shareholders; 00 had paid for their shares in cash and 2,000 ld their chares under circumstances which e Chairman had related. Approximately shareholders were in attendance at that eeting. He asked them to reject the resolun, which he was convinced was contrary the best interests of Logomia.

The motion was put to the vote and declared t.

The retiring directors were Sir James Curtis d Mr. J. E. Keeping (who did not seek reection through ill-health). Sir James Curtis s unanimously re-elected and the following minations were received for the remaining cancy, namely, Mr. Colin Roberts, M.B.E., r. F. T. Bromley and Mr. R. W. Ramsay.

On a show of hands, Mr. Colin Roberts d a clear majority and he was declared elected. essrs. Jackson, Pixley and Co. were reected auditors, and the proceedings closed th a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the ff, proposed by Mr. Whinnerah.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

North Western and North Wales

A meeting of the North Western and North Wales District Committee was held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, 1st June, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk of Southport. The delegates were welcomed by Mr. R. Stuart Pilcher, General Manager of the Manchester Corporation Transport Department, and President of the Manchester Branch of N.A.L.G.O., who said: "There is an idea abroad that public servants, employed in both national and local government, are lacking in initiative. My experience has been in connection with transport work, that municipal undertakings do not show any lack of initiative compared with private enterprise.

"N.A.L.G.O. is a great force in this country. It is a growing force. We cannot improve our conditions and our outlook without improving the services which we control. The local government services depend on the local government officials. Good government must mean good service. N.A.L.G.O. stands for all that is best in good Government."

The Quarterly meeting of the South Western District Committee took place at the Duporth Holiday Camp, St. Austell, on Saturday, May 25th. Mr. Maurice Petherick, M.P. for Penryn and Falmouth Division, welcomed the delegates to St. Austell and addressing the meeting, made it clear that the prestige of Nalgo in Government circles stands very high.

The representatives of the District Committee on the Regional Committee of the B. & O. Fund were elected as follows: Messrs. E. J. Stead, C. J. Whitburn, M. C. Taylor and H. Middleton. The Divisional Secretary reported that good progress was being made in various parts of the district, especially in Cornwall, in regard to the adoption of the Superannuation Act.

Since this was the last meeting at which Mr. M. O. McAuliffe would attend in his capacity as a member of the N.E.C., the Chairman, on behalf of the members of the District Committee presented him with a gold wristlet watch, suitably inscribed, as a token of esteem and thanks for the sixteen years during which Mr. McAuliffe has represented the District on the National Executive Council.

On the Friday evening previous to the meeting a dance was held at the Duporth Holiday Camp. All the arrangements were carried out by the Hon. Secretary and the Vice Chairman, Mr. L. St. Leger Yeend, of the East Cornwall Branch.

South Eastern

The summer meeting of the South Eastern District Committee was held at Bognor Regis on 29th June by invitation of the local Branch. Mr. F. A. Bristow (presiding officer) reported the results of the voting in the district for the election of the N.E.C. Reports of the Cheltenham Conference were given by the Committee delegates, and Mr. Bristow suggested that more use might be made of the wireless to further the Association's propaganda policy, by appropriate talks and even to the extent of endeavouring to secure broadcasts of the conference speeches and presidential address in the B.B.C.'s official programmes.

Mr. H. J. Altoun suggested a site at Hastings for the South Coast holiday centre.

In connection with the Committee's summer school essay competition, it was decided to congratulate the winner, Mr. L. J. Ellis, West Sussex Branch, on being awarded the first place and prize of £5 5s. Mr. Kent Wright was thanked for his services as adjudicator. The four representatives on the B.& O. Regional Committee were appointed: Mr. A. Webb, Mr. W. A. N. Baker, Miss F. M. Jump and Mr. F. A. Bristow. It was decided to send a letter of condolence to the widow of Mr. H. P. Morgan (Hon. Secretary of the District Motoring Association), whose death occurred recently. Mr. H. J. Altoun was appointed to succeed the late Mr. Morgan in that office.

NALGO EXAMINATIONS

(*Continued from page 236*)

ndidate's umber	Name	Department	Authority
6	Sanger, P. J.	Electricity	Willesden B.C.
7	Smith, G. A.	Treasurer's	Willesden B.C.
8	Sowerbutts, G. L.	Finance	Dundee Corporation
9	Spreadbury, S. J.	Clerk's	Southampton C.C.
o	Thatcher, W. G.	Clerk's	Swindon B.C.
1	Thompson, J. G.	Health	Cumberland C.C.
8	Williams, R. K.	Buildings	Kent C.C.
0	Wooding, J.	Clerk's	Hornsey B.C.
1	Wright, R. T.	Clerk's	Southport C.B.C.

FINAL GRADE

1	Bishop, A. G.	Education	Willesden B.C.
3	Brown, T. E.	Assessor's	Dundee Corporation.
5	Harrison, R.	Health	Preston C.B.C.
6	Lamb, E. J.	Clerk's	Newton Abbot R.D.C.
8	Murrin, G. E.	Clerk's	Bromley B.C.
9	Raddon, L.	Taxation	Bristol C.B.C.
0	Reeves, L. F.	Clerk's	Maidstone B.C.
1	Thomas, Miss M.	Education	Swindon B.C.
3	Towle, H.	Health	Heston and Isleworth B.C.
4	Wilcox, E. H. O. A.	Treasurer's	Willesden B.C.
5	Wootton, A.	Engineer's	Walsall C.B.C.
6	Worledge, J. N.	Clerk's	Norfolk C.C.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Grade	Passed	Referred in certain subjects	Failed	Total
Preliminary	58	—	63	121
Intermediate	33	20	17	70
Final	12	3	1	16

PERCENTAGES OF CANDIDATES WHO PASSED THE EXAMINATIONS

Grade	Percentage
Preliminary	48 per cent.
Intermediate	47 per cent.
Final	75 per cent.

4 *Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.* *July*, 1935.

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS' VISIT TO CANADA

The National Council of Education and the Overseas Education League which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary have invited a group of educational administrators to Canada with the co-operation of the Departments of Education and Mr. Beatty of McGill University. In a letter addressed to Lord Halifax, as President of the Board of Education, conveying the invitation, it was stated that the primary purpose was an acknowledgment of the hospitality which teachers and students had enjoyed in Great Britain during the past twenty-five years, and that in addition it was hoped to bring educationists of both countries together for the exchange of views. It is intended that conferences; round tables and meetings for teachers and the general public to be addressed by the visitors will be held in the chief centres in Canada. The party will leave England on August 29th by the *Empress of Australia*, and return on October 31st by the *Empress of Britain*, and the party will travel from coast to coast. It is expected that Lord Tweedsmuir, the new Governor-General, will be able to receive the party in Ottawa on their return journey from Vancouver. The English Board of Education, the Scottish Department of Education and Northern Ireland are represented, and in addition the party will consist of the following Directors of Education in England, Wales and Scotland: Messrs. W. A. Brockington, C.B.E. (Leicestershire); W. A. F. Hepburn, M.C. (Ayr); J. A. Peart (Winchester); T. J. Rees (Swansea); E. M. Rich (London); E. Salter Davies (Kent); Dr. J. E. Smart (Acton); Messrs. Thos. B. Tilley (Durham); F. H. Toyne (Brighton).

HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

ONE who spends a good deal of time among farms as well as among gardens, and has continued to do so year after year, learns that when agricultural crops are good horticultural yields are generally satisfactory also. With the best of farmers and of gardeners weather counts—perhaps on the whole less favourably with the former than the latter, since farmers cannot snatch opportunities as quickly and thoroughly as gardeners; nevertheless both benefit. Well, farm crops are flourishing and roots in particular are better than last year; so if Potatoes and Carrots and Dahlias and Chrysanthemums and Roses are not up to the mark in the gardens of most of my readers I am afraid they have been lagging, not having taken full advantage of the June rains and the July sunshine.

Roses in July

We had a good July with Roses, even though some of the Ramblers were rather later than usual. One of my neighbours suffered from a cause on which I may say a word—that of laying turf too close to them. Turf should never be laid, or grass seed sown, close to Roses: a foot is the minimum, two feet still better. Many people do not realise how dreadfully greedy grass is, and how quickly it can spoil neighbouring plants by taking food and water which the plants ought to be having.

Few plants are more responsive, equally to good and bad conditions, than Roses. So unfavourable was the wet and cold weather of June that early shows had to be dropped owing to lack of entries, yet quite early in July garden Roses were in full beauty. The wet seemed to have given a special fillip to suckers, for they came early and strong. As I must have said in the past, it is desirable to move quickly and actively when suckers appear, as they are apt to do, particularly when the Brier stock has been used. The pale green and seven-leafleted foliage betrays them to the watchful grower and out they go to the base.

I may remind my readers that early August is generally a very good period for budding Roses, and I am not going to scare them away from the Brier because of its suckering habit. Despite that weakness, it is a first-class stock. The sketches in the gardening books of my readers will show them how the buds should be cut out and placed in the stocks. Would that we could get stocks and buds at the same time, but we can't. If we mean to do Rose budding in summer we must get stocks the previous autumn. If Rose cuttings are to be struck I suggest waiting another month, but I doubt if own-root Roses are used as much as they used to be in the past, when they had a firm if small band of supporters.

Cuttings in August

Mention of cuttings reminds one that August is one of the best months of the year for increasing garden plants by this means, the list of suitable subjects including such important things as Zonal Geraniums, Antirrhinums, Ageratums, mauve Catmint, Marguerites, Petunias, Gazanias, Alyssum, Lobelia, Pansy and Viola, Pentstemons (often, however, put in later with Calceolarias), and Verbenas. Most of the things named will strike if set firmly in very gritty soil and kept moist in a cool place with the boxes shaded from the sun; but Zonals are an exception to the rule of shade when first taken off, as they are likely to be full of sap. Although I have included Antirrhinums in the list in order to be technically correct, I advise readers to be chary of propagating by cuttings until satisfied that the "rust" disease is absent this season. It should show itself early in September if likely to appear. One can raise satisfactory crops of this useful plant from seed in winter if one has heat.

I have not included Carnations among cutting subjects because most plants produce growths more suitable for treatment as layers than as cuttings, but cuttings may be used if the shoots are short and upright. As to layers, the gardening book may again be turned to for a drawing. It is getting rather late for layering and should be done at once if at all. But more and more people, I believe, rely on seedling Carnations, even flowering them the same summer from early sowings. One can certainly get an immense amount of pleasure from this beautiful and fragrant flower without specialising named varieties and increasing them by layering.

I wonder whether many of my readers have found themselves worried by a great burst of activity on the part of clover this year—an outburst finding expression not only on the lawn, where it has been a serious nuisance, but also in the form of weeds in the flower beds and borders? In my part of the country clover has been quite exceptionally abundant, and I attribute its spread to the very wet weather which prevailed in June. As a rule, clover does not spread very actively until the autumn rains come on. An early summer spread of clover is tiresome for more reasons than one: it adds to the labour of mowing, which has to be done more frequently than usual; otherwise the machine will "drag" even if sharp; while when a hot spell comes the part where clover is quickest turns brown soonest. Then, again, the clover establishes itself as a weed close to the stems of bedding and border plants, where it cannot be extirpated without a good deal of trouble.

Hoeing in the "Dog Days"

An early morning ramble with a hoe is a pleasant and also useful experience during the "dog days." While plying the tool one notices various matters affecting the plants, not excepting pests. I hope my readers make a point of laying in a stock of Abol or other insecticide in spring and at the same time making sure that the sprayer, whether of syringe or other pumping type, is in good working order. Quite often the first usage reveals leakage, accompanied by stiffness of action. As a rule this is due to the washer having hardened and in such cases a few drops of oil put matters right. In any case it is a good plan to have a preliminary test, to make sure that jets as well as washers are all right. It is also a good plan to finish up the day's spraying by ejecting all the insecticide and flushing the machine with pure water.

An insecticide is not generally of much use for repressing fungus diseases, of which mildew is one of the most common. Here sulphide of potassium is one of the most useful chemicals. It is cheap and easily prepared by dissolving the lumps at the rate of one ounce per three gallons of water. Neither the smell at the moment nor the leaf-stain which follows is particularly pleasant, but one has to make the best of them.

In connection with mildew always bear in mind that dryness at the roots of Roses and other plants is a powerful contributory factor to the spread of the pest and that an occasional soaking with water or liquid manure is a great help in keeping the plants free. A different substance is being tried for black spot on Roses—a disease which in the past has worried me far worse than mildew—and this is permanganate of potash at the rate of one ounce per gallon of water. By a kindly dispensation of providence for which I cannot feel too grateful, black spot has not appeared on my plants this season, which makes me wonder whether the June rains helped the plants to resist it. A careful watch will, of course, be kept during the remainder of the season.

Some of my neighbours have been complaining bitterly of the depredation of slugs and snails this season, while I have escaped almost scot free. What is the explanation? I firmly believe that one of the prime factors is presence or absence, as the case may be, of garden rubbish. I will not have rubbish on my place throughout the winter. Even empty seed and cutting boxes are dealt with. The worst of them are consigned to the flames and the remainder are scraped out and left exposed. Old damp dirty sheltered boxes are haunted by hibernating pests during winter and myriads of eggs are laid in them. Slugs in particular love to breed in empty and soiled boxes. Believe me, the rubbish corner of the garden has much to answer for.

Woodlice have, no doubt, done their share of mischief. I believe that a good deal of the injury attributed to slugs is really the work of woodlice. They like to lurk under old dirty boards and soiled boxes and this habit can be taken advantage of to get rid of them, bait being put under such hiding-places. Bran tempts them strongly, and if a little Paris Green is mixed with it they will still devour it, only to perish. Eighty parts of the bran to one of the poison make a suitable mixture.

The June rains gave me, and also many of my readers, I hope, a grand row of Sweet Peas from an outdoor sowing at the end of October 1934. True it will not last throughout a hot summer, but it will have well repaid itself whenever it goes. Think of this next October readers. It is easy to provide for a succession by growing a separate set of plants from spring sown seed.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

"His Master's Voice" records recently issued cater for a variety of tastes. "Anything Goes," Cochran's new show, is the work of Cole Porter, who has recorded "Anything Goes," the theme song of his show, and "You're the Top" (B8332). "You're the Top" is also recorded by Jack Hylton (BD172) and by Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra (BD170). The American band also provide "Anything Goes," "All Through the Night," and "I Get a Kick Out of You" (BD170-171). "Glamorous Night" by Ivor Novello is represented by a beautifully played selection by the Drury Lane Theatre Orchestra, conducted by Charles Prentice (C2756) and by a Waltz Medley played by Renara (B8328). Cicely Courtneidge's topical sketch, "A Pleasure Cruise" (B8329) is rich in fun, while Gracie Fields is her racy Lancashire self in two well contrasted ditties.

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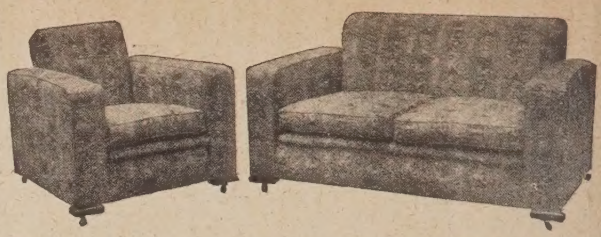

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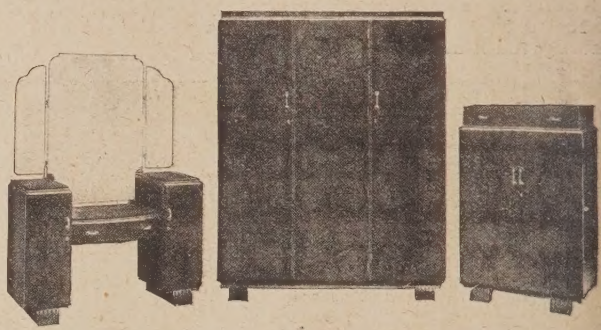

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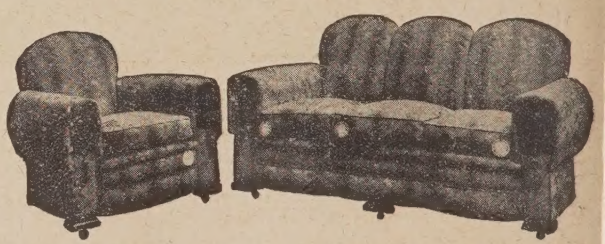

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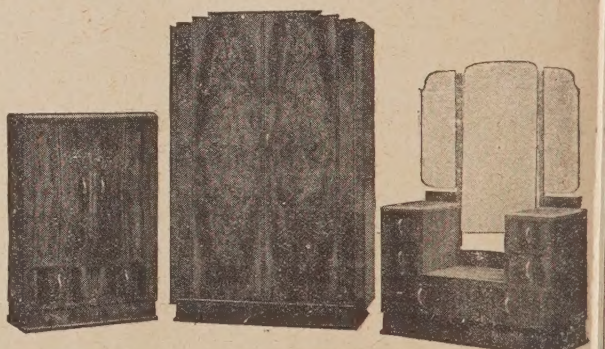

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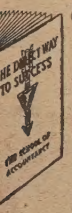

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